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Students get glimpse of work in 'job shadowing' program. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 244

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CW cap increase bill passes US House

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A bill that increases the numerical cap of the CNMI-Only Transition Worker Nonimmigrant Visa program has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and now goes to the Senate for another round of deliberation, with the hope to have President Barack Obama sign it into law before his term ends on Jan. 20 next year.

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced House Resolution 6401, a bill that aims to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands. HR 6401 passed with unanimous consent at the House through a rider by Republican Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen of American Samoa.

HR 6401, if it becomes a law, would increase the number of CW permits from 12,998 to 15,000 for fiscal year 2017; that was the

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SAKE CEREMONY MICHAEL T SANTOS

Miss Marianas 2016 Peachy Quitugua and 2016 Teen Marianas Palanga Taimanao join acting governor Victor Hocog, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, and Japanese Consul Toshio Matsumura in the *kagami-biraki* ceremony during the celebration of the emperor of Japan's birthday at the Grandvrio Resort on Dec. 6.

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Muña says board will micromanage CHCC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Opponents of a bill that transforms the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board from being merely advisory to a governing one believes the measure would ultimately be detrimental to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Muña

Hospital CEO Esther Muña, who was joined by other CHCC officials to oppose the bill, expressed frustration yesterday over the Legislature's passage of the measure.

The Senate passed the bill Tuesday a week after the House eased it through.

In a telephone call yesterday to the *Saipan Tribune*, Muña said the proposed board of trustees governing the corporation would not pass the next Centers for Medicare

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Tarkong sues DPS, CSC for alleged discrimination

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 25-year veteran of the CNMI's police force, Jason T. Tarkong, is suing the Department of Public Safety and the Civil Service Commission for alleged discrimination in its hiring and promotions practices after he was not promoted to sergeant.

Tarkong

Tarkong, who has just been promoted to police officer 3, wants the court to stop DPS and CSC from filling two police sergeant positions until after the court's review.

The commission opened exam announcement 15-052 on April 23, 2015, to develop "an open competitive and promotional eligible list" for two police sergeant positions with DPS.

Tarkong, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the court to compel DPS and CSC to comply with the Personnel System Rules and Regulations and the competitive selection, merit increases, and promo-

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Mariana Ocean celebrates their newest Guam location.
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President-elect Donald Trump turns businessman-in-chief.
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The Grammy Awards are sipping all of Beyonce's lemonade.
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Local

MAN ON THE STREET

What does Constitution Day mean to you?

"The framers who banded together to create the Covenant four decades ago displayed a faith in self-determination for our people that was unparalleled, and the people who helped in ratifying the Constitution we uphold are products of that same faith of the forefathers of the Commonwealth. On a day filled with faith and duty, we celebrate one of the most important documents of our islands, and in doing so, pledge to continue upholding it as the CNMI continues to move forward in this century. This is a day that history will forever be remembered as one of great magnitude for our islands. And as the vessel known as our Commonwealth continues to new horizons, we must not forget to always hold dear our Constitution, the symbolic embodiment of our traditions and hopes. From our families to yours, may all of you have a Happy Constitution Day!"

—Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres & Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog

"On Constitution Day we are reminded that the Commonwealth was founded on the Rule of Law, and that we should remember that the Constitution provides the key to our freedom and protects our individual rights as citizens of this great Commonwealth."

—Edward Manibusan, Attorney General

"The CNMI Constitution is the bedrock of our legal system. It's what allows us to be a Commonwealth of law. It's what allows us to organize our political and legal systems. The United States and foreign countries can see, by the fact the CNMI is a constitutionally based republic, though not fully independent, that it is a stable society with the rule of law. The public defender looks to ensure that all criminal prosecutions comply with the protections, procedural and substantive, set forth in the Constitution, some of which are greater than those guarantees in the federal constitution. No law can stand or be enforced if it is in conflict with the constitution. It is the single most important document in the criminal justice system in ensuring that the rights of all residents, citizen or not, are not violated."

—Douglas Hartig, Office of the Public Defender

"The road to the CNMI Constitution was a long and often tumultuous one…it treaded its way through post-war destruction, the Naval administration, decades of Trust Territory administration, the Congress of Micronesia and our eventual break away from that body to negotiate directly with the United States, and the serious internal debate in the Northern Marianas about our future political status. Our constitution provides a map for the structure of our government, defines its powers, and lays the foundation for our laws. It is also a memorialization of our rights and protections as citizens. The CNMI has come far in a few short decades. There have been and are sure to be continued growing pains along the way, but the beauty of the constitution is that it is a living document. We have the collective power to make changes to it as we see the need arises."

—Robert Hunter, Secretary for the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs

"CNMI Constitution Day is an important holiday. It commemorates the day 40 years ago that the CNMI Constitution was signed by our people, forging a path forward for the newest Commonwealth of the United States. This holiday honors a significant document, one that all elected and appointed officials must swear to protect and defend. It's critical that future generations remember the hard work and sacrifice that went into negotiating this document so that they can appreciate all that it offers them. This document protects indigenous rights to land ownership, which is arguably the most unique thing about our constitution because it provides something that not even the U.S. Constitution does. That makes the CNMI exceptional among U.S. territories and commonwealths."

—Chris Concepcion, managing director, Marianas Visitors Authority

"The CNMI Constitution offers the people of the Commonwealth rights and protections that allow for the empowerment of women since there is still a lot of work to be done in terms of achieving parity. Parity is the belief that all men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. The rule of law allows us this ability to work toward a better Commonwealth and together we must do [our] part in educating ourselves and taking advantage of opportunities to achieve gender balance. Synergizing the activities of government and private organizations play a critical role in creating gender responsive work and employment environments conducive to women's economic empowerment. With this, bridging the gap in economic opportunity between women and men is possible and will sustain fair gender sensitive governance."

—Dolores Drew, Women's Affairs Ofice

"Constitution Day reminds us of the importance of civility in a democratic society. As an indigenous person, the words… of our traditions in the preamble clearly encourages me to adopt and promote traditional awareness for our indigenous population and the rest of the Commonwealth. Furthermore, the Office of Indigenous Affairs strongly believes in advocating and protecting the rights of the indigenous population pursuant to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I hope in the future, a ceremony to commemorate this special day may become part of promoting community awareness."

—Roman Tudela Jr., Indigenous Affairs Office

"Constitution Day means two things to me: faith and freedom. Faith, in the religion we were brought up in, and faith of the forefathers who entrusted us to determine our future by providing a set of laws for us to follow and a set of rules for us to defend and honor in order to guide us forward. It also means freedom. It was a choice we made and one that we continue to carry out to this day. The constitution means a lot to public information and protocol since our office helps

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Judge orders arrest of Evengelyn Jones again

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued yesterday a warrant for the arrest of Evengelyn Eudora Conrad Jones, who is on probation for visa fraud conviction.

Manglona issued the arrest warrant at the request of U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola, who alleged that Jones is using methamphetamine or "ice" again and violating other conditions of her supervised release.

Arriola asked the court to bring Jones in to answer or show cause why her supervised release should not be revoked.

Arriola informed the court that Jones admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages on Nov. 26 and Dec. 4, 2016, and using "ice" on Nov. 28 and Dec. 4, 2016.

Arriola said Jones also failed to attend her counseling sessions on Nov. 29 and Dec. 2, 2016.

Jones also allegedly failed to appear for drug tests on Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and 3, 2016.

In addition, Arriola said, Jones failed to inform him that she had a change of residence on Nov. 28, 2016.

Last June, U.S. Marshals arrested Jones for using "ice" on several occasions and committing other violations.

This prompted the court to revoke her supervised release and sentenced her to five months' imprisonment, followed by 22 months of supervised release. Her third term of supervised release commenced on Nov. 21, 2016, and will expire on Sept. 20, 2018.

On Sept. 18, 2015, Manglona revoked Jones' term of supervised release for using "ice" and marijuana, consuming alcoholic beverages, and failing to appear for random drug testing and counseling sessions.

Jones then received a nine-month imprisonment sentence, with credit for time served followed by 27 months of supervised release. The supervised release commenced on April 25, 2016.

At the Jan. 20, 2015, revocation hearing, Jones did not show up in court. This prompted Manglona to order her arrest.

Jones had entered a guilty plea to the charge of visa fraud. In June 2015, she was slapped with a 10-month prison term. She was ordered to serve five months out of the 10 months imprisonment under home confinement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WHAT

From Page 2

in regulating official etiquette within the Commonwealth. It is the document we swear to uphold, just like our honorable governor and lieutenant governor. It represents everything that we do, and how we conduct ourselves."

—**Luis John Castro**, public information specialist

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth. Through Article XV of the CNMI Constitution, the state guarantees every person a right to free public education. Having this constitutional right has given millions of children the opportunity to have the best quality and meaningful educational opportunities in the CNMI. Let us celebrate our Constitution and continue to talk about

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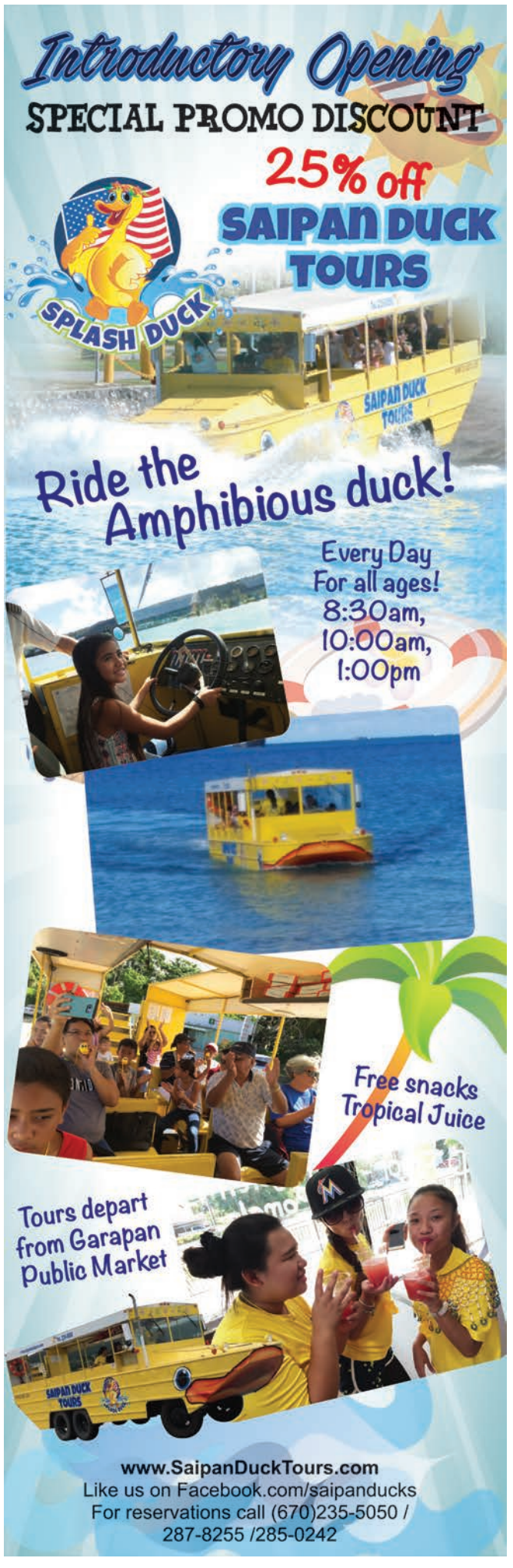

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Guam federal judge to continue seeking renomination

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam officials say they will again push for the renomination of the territory's chief federal judge after President-elect Donald Trump is in the White House.

Time is running out for the Senate Judiciary Committee to act on U.S. District Court Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood's nomination before her term ends, reported *The Pacific Daily News*. Delegate Madeleine Bordallo said Monday that she will continue to pursue the reappointment after Trump is sworn in next month.

Federal judges in U.S. territories serve only 10-year terms, while other federal judges are appointed for life.

President Barack Obama nominated Tydingco-Gatewood for a second term this May. She was originally nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed in 2006. Her current term expired in October.

Tydingco-Gatewood has completed an FBI background check and a health check, but she is waiting on action by the Senate, which hasn't scheduled her for a vote. Dozens of Obama's other federal judge nominees also await Senate action.

The Guam Legislature passed unanimous legislation Friday calling for Tydingco-Gatewood's renomination to be confirmed.

TARKONG

From Page 1

tion processes.

Tarkong asked the court to end discriminatory practices at DPS when it hires, promotes, and increases salaries.

He also asked the court to invalidate a list of candidates for announcement 15-052, saying it contains names that were not properly ranked and certified. He asked the court to order CSC to re-announce the positions.

Tarkong also asked the court to direct DPS and CSC to pay his attorney's fees.

In Tarkong's petition for judicial review, while still a police officer 2, he applied for the position of police sergeant as announced in 15-052 between April 23, 2015 and May 7, 2015.

Torres said that on June 30, 2015, CSC certified six applicants as eligible.

Torres said Tarkong was at the top of this list, indicating he was rated first among the certified applicants.

Torres said below the "promotional" listing on the certification of eligibles list was a list of two certified eligible applicants alongside the category "reemployment"—Arnold K. Seman and Jeffrey F. Olopai.

Torres said the names of Seman and Olopai appeared directly below the list of four names alongside the category "promotional," indicating they were rated fifth and sixth among the certified eligible candidates.

Torres said no more than two of the six applicants listed on the certification of eligibles list had any experience as police officer 3s—Florencio Q. Falig and Arnold Seman.

Torres said Olopai had held a permanent position in the personnel service of the Commonwealth, reaching as high as police officer 2.

Torres said Olopai, however, left that position without being demoted or promoted through reduction-in-force prior to his application and was not employed by the Commonwealth at the time of his application.

In contrast, the lawyer noted, Tarkong has served with DPS since 1991, had earned an education/degree or other education listed on application, and had served as a DPS police officer 2 for over 17 years.

Torres said DPS selected Olopai and Simon T. Manacop for the two sergeant positions under announcement 15-052.

Torres said Olopai is a former police officer 2, while Manacop was listed third on the certification of eligibles list and was at that time a police officer 1 with DPS.

Tarkong then wrote a letter to the DPS commissioner on Oct. 27, 2015, stating a grievance regarding the process in which the sergeant positions under announcement 15-052 were filled.

Two months later, Tarkong received a response to his grievance letter from then-acting DPS commissioner Robert A. Guerrero. Guerrero replaced James Deleon Guerrero as DPS commissioner sometime after Tarkong's grievance letter was written.

Unsatisfied with Guerrero's decision, Tarkong submitted his grievance to CSC on Jan. 13, 2016.

DPS moved to dismiss Tarkong's grievance.

According to DPS, Tarkong is a police officer 2 and was never qualified for the position of sergeant. DPS said Tarkong suffered no injury-in-fact when he was not hired because he was ineligible to be hired.

DPS argued that none of the candidates on the list were eligible, including Tarkong, and the faulty certification process was completely outside of DPS' control.

On May 16, 2016, CSC's attorney sent an email to Tarkong, postponing Tarkong's status conference scheduled for that day because the CSC chairman "is not available for hearing this morning." The email did not include a rescheduled date for the hearing, but states that CSC was doing its best to resolve the matter.

Torres said that on June 15, 2016, Tarkong sent a follow up email to CSC and DPS requesting an explanation for the delay. Torres said neither the CSC nor DPS responded to Tarkong.

Tarkong again sent an email on Oct. 14, 2016, to CSC and DPS contesting the lack of response to his inquiries and the lack of progress in his grievance.

Torres said CSC's counsel sent a response four days later, stating that CSC "has not authorized us to respond to your inquiry on their behalf."

Torres asserted that the Civil Service Act and the PSRR authorize Commonwealth employees to protest unlawful personnel actions by bringing a grievance.

"DPS routinely failed to address the grievance of Tarkong or addressed it in a quite untimely manner," Torres said.

Torres said CSC has failed to follow through on Tarkong's grievance, letting it stagnate while refusing to provide any information as to when the commission may take it up again or if it ever will.

Last month, police captain Lawrence M. Camacho, a 25-year veteran of the CNMI's police force, also filed a discrimination lawsuit against DPS and CSC for allegedly not selecting him as director of police despite being the only one qualified. Torres is also counsel for Camacho.

MUÑA

From Page 1

and Medicaid Services survey, resulting in the cancellation of CMS funding to run the lone hospital service provider of the CNMI.

"When CMS comes in, they are not just looking at the governance of the hospital. What they are going to look at is the evaluation of these members on their roles and their responsibilities," said Muña.

She believes creating a politically appointed board to govern the affairs of the CHCC would work against the hospital.

"[CMS is] going to evaluate if they understand how [the board's] decision…are linked to infection control, quality control, utilization review, medical staff, nursing services, and more. Those are the things that our current governing board of the hospital…decide on to communicate with all the staff about on a quarterly basis," she added. "It's actually comprehending how it links to everything else in the organization."

The hospital's governing board consists of the CEO, chief financial officer, and chief medical officer.

A consultant on the bill, Pedro Deleon Guerrero, confirmed that House Bill 19-186, HD1, would affect CMS recertification, but went on to say that it depended on the hospital's ability to comply with CMS requirements.

Muña also believes that closely managing the people instead of the hospital itself—as what happened under a governing board at CHC—is a bad idea in general.

"The reason why we are against that bill is the fact that you are allowing micro-management of healthcare services and hospital services. This bill, the way it is written, allows micro-management to occur," she said.

Muña thinks that having a governing body—as opposed to an individual governing over operations—is not efficient, especially for matters that are time-sensitive such as healthcare.

"If you're on the surgery table and you need to make a decision, I cannot authorize [the sudden purchase of medicine and equipment] anymore. You've got to wait for the board to meet and make a decision. Is that the kind of system that we want in place? I just can't fathom that people think it's okay," said Muña.

Muña said that before making decisions, there are at least two things that she considers. "First of all, is it going to save a life? Do we have the money for it? If not, when we provide it, do we get reimbursed for it? That is something that we eventually see later on," she said.

Despite all the comments that opposed the passage of the bill, the Senate unanimously passed it and Muña can't help but feel disappointed with the Legislature's decision.

"It is disappointing that our lawmakers disregarded our concerns on the bill: technical concerns, the question of legality, and even the consequences of health in the CNMI," said Muña in an email. "These are the people that are elected to protect our people so you can imagine the disappointment."

Muña said that no matter what happens to CHCC, the goal would stay the same—to provide proper medical healthcare to the people of the CNMI.

"My goal now is to lead the CHCC team to continue with the same passion to help with improving the health of our people. Our mission is the same—just a little harder when you know what's in the horizon," she said.

One of the bill's authors is Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CUC closed today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s offices will be closed today, Dec. 8, 2016, in observance of Constitution Day. Regular business hours will resume on Friday, Dec.9, 2016. For emergencies, contact the CUC call center at 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

CNMI Republican Party general membership meeting

CNMI Republican Party president James Ada is calling for a general membership meeting on Monday, Dec. 19, 2016, at 5:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao pavillion. The meeting will include the election of officers. ***(PR)***

Join the annual Christmas Bird Count

On Monday, Dec. 19, birders are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has organized local counts for over 25 years. Volunteers will meet at 6am at the American Memorial Park to divide into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't. For more information, contact Steve Mullin at 664-6011 or smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com, or visit http://www.cnmidfw.com/. ***(PR)***

CW

From Page 1

same level more than three years ago. HR 6401 is also known as the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

The move could give a much-needed reprieve and short-term relief to the CNMI, which had been hit hard by CW issues. The CW1 cap has hounded the local workforce, with hundreds of foreign workers already sent home after the numerical limit was breached. The CNMI has been facing a labor shortage as development and other economic activity increases.

Sablan's bill would also restrict the CW cap increase—construction workers could no longer use the CW1 visa and now have to go to the H2 category as required by law.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce secretary Alex Sablan, speaking in yesterday's monthly general membership meeting at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, said they are thankful for the efforts made by Sablan as they welcomed the news of the close to 3,000 increase in the numerical cap.

"This gives a much-needed reprieve because the estimate is we have already lost 3,600 to 4,000 workers by the end of the calendar year. It has passed with unanimous consent in the House and is on its way to Senate, where we believe it would pass," said Alex Sablan.

"We are also thankful to [Delegate] Radewagen for allowing [Gregorio Sablan] to utilize her vehicle and put [HR] 6401 in passage of the legislation. We are thankful for her help in assisting us to pursue our need for CW workforce."

HR 6401 also aims to increase the education fee for each approved CW permit of a foreign worker from $150 to $200, with the funds going to training U.S. qualified workers that are either studying at the Northern Marianas College or at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Alex Sablan said the chamber would continue to work with Delegate Gregorio Sablan and the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in finding a long-term solution for the CNMI's labor and immigration issues.

WHAT

From Page 3

matters that will help protect, support and guide students in assessing areas of interest and ability, in clarifying values and goals, and in providing students with clear and accurate information so they may gain the most from their educational experience."

—**Shelane Borja**, Youth Affairs Office

"Personally, the CNMI is so fortunate to have been granted the same human rights, privileges, and protection (in our waters from foreign invasion) as American citizens (with the exception of voting for the President of the United States). The framers of the Covenant envisioned membership for the people of the CNMI within the government of the United States for the sole purpose of political, economic, and personal liberties. For their vision and determination, I will always be grateful."

—**Alfreda Camacho**, Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority

Japanese consul leads Emperor Akihito's birthday bash

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese Consulate hosted it annual celebration of the birthday of Japanese Emperor Akihito with a bash at the Grandvrio Resort Saipan Tuesday night.

Hosted by Japanese Consul Toshio Matsumura and his wife, the celebration of the emperor's 83rd birthday brought together local dignitaries led by acting governor Victor B. Hocog and the expatriate Japanese community on Saipan.

After opening remarks from Matsumura and Hocog, selected members from the assembled crowd gathered to the front for the *kagami-biraki* ceremony.

The *kagami-biraki* is a ceremony performed at celebratory events in which the lid of the *sake* barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet and the *sake*, a Japanese alcoholic beverage made from fermented rice, is served to everyone present. Everyone in attendance were served a glassful of *sake*.

Palanga Taimanao, 2016 Miss Teen Marianas, said, "Everyone is communicating with one another and just developing good relationships with each other. The Consul for the Office of Japan even gave me a toy tonight."

Hocog reiterated the cultural and historical ties between Japan and the CNMI during his opening remarks. The Northern Marianas is a former colony of Japan and many community members trace their ancestry to the East Asian nation.

"For almost 70 years, the Northern Marianas is privileged to have enjoyed a lifelong period of goodwill, peace, and cultural exchange between our people and the good people of Japan. Our people share a unique history with deep ties and respect that has grown to become unshakable and has shaped our continuing relationship, primarily culturally and economically," he said.

Due to the absence of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was off-island, Hocog stepped in to fill in on his behalf for the event.

"No matter the changes of the global economy and the social issues that we all face from our respective societies, the ties between Japan and the Northern Marianas continue to strengthen. Our respect continues to be strong and our relationship continues to build in a new era of economic recovery and cultural diversity," Hocog said.

Matsumura thanked everyone in attendance for accepting the consulate's invitation to grace the emperor's birthday.

"Every country in the world designates a certain day to be of utmost importance. For us, we choose to make our emperor's birthday a national holiday because it means that much to us," he said.

Traditional Japanese cuisine was served during the event as well as an open bar for all guests.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago marveled at the auspicious event honoring Akihito. "The event tonight is fabulous! I think the food is good and the guests are all great," he said.

Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua, third from left, and Teen Marianas Palanga Taimanao join Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, second from left, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), leftmost, and Japanese Consul Toshio Matsumura during the Dec. 6 *kagami-biraki* ceremony in celebration of Emperor Akihito's birthday at the Granvrio Resort.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Personnel Committee will meet on **Monday, December 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Executive Session***
(Discuss and confer with the Legal Counsel on personnel and legal matters)

IV. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Man resentenced to 3 years for sexual abuse of a minor

A 52-year-old man who pleaded guilty in 2012 to touching the breast and buttocks of a 13-year-old girl was resentenced on Tuesday to 36 months—or three years—in prison.

Jin Song Li, who has already been in prison for 33 months—was given credit for time served. That means that he will serve three more months in the custody of the Department of Correction.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who handled Lin's resentencing at the behest of the NMI Supreme Court, believes that Lin is remorseful and that she received letters from nine individuals who supported Lin's good character.

*Saipan Tribun*e learned that among the nine are House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and former House speaker Oscar Babauta.

Before the judge handed down the revised sentence, Lin was allowed to address the court. Lin, through an interpreter, said he is remorseful for what he did to the child. He apologized to his wife, his daughter, friends, and to the whole community.

Kim-Tenorio noted that the victim was traumatized by the incident.

After the hearing, defense attorney Robert T. Torres said the government clearly had the extremist position, which is not a surprise.

Torres said they believe that Kim-Tenorio was fair and considerate, giving Lin 36 months imprisonment.

Torres said that Lin will complete his time and pay his price to society and will move on with his life. Lin, a Chinese national, will be deported from the CNMI after serving his sentence.

"But I believe today, finally today, a fair and just sentence was meted out and that's all what we can ever ask for in the courthouse," Torres said.

Assistant attorney general Matthew C. Baisley, who had recommended a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, refused to comment later.

Baisley said Lin sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl in broad daylight and in view of a surveillance camera in a store in Chalan Kanoa. Lin worked as a cashier of the store when the incident happened. His brother owns the store.

Baisley said it is not disputed that the victim was 13 years old, that Lin also groped her as part of the assault, and that she has continued to suffer from this incident.

Baisley said the nature and circumstances of the offense justify the original imposition of the maximum term of imprisonment of five years.

Baisley said a sexual assault on a minor child demands just punishment.

He said Lin has demonstrated that he has a criminal impulse that presents a continuing danger to the community.

Baisley said Lin states he has no prior criminal conduct, but this alone cannot justify a reduced sentence, given the nature and circumstances of this offense.

Lin's counsel, Torres, recommended a sentence of time served or immediate release. Attorney Viola Alepuyo also appeared as co-counsel for Lin.

Torres said Lin shall voluntarily depart the CNMI on his own volition and at his own expense within five days of release.

Torres said Lin is a person without any criminal history and is a person with a family.

Torres said Lin accepted responsibility and is remorseful as he pleaded guilty.

Torres said he does not understand the government's argument that Lin's act was brazen because it happened in the morning and there was a video.

"It does not make difference," the defense lawyer said.

Torres said his recommendation is not a merciful sentence, but a just sentence.

"This is the time for justice," he said.

Torres said Lin did not occupy a position of authority to the child as she was not under his care or supervision nor was the child a family member.

Torres said there is no report of any statements by the girl that Lin compounded his misconduct with sexually charged statements, yelling, graphic language, profanity, or threats.

Torres said where a defendant such as Lin suffered a conviction, which has a mandatory minimum of two years up to five years imprisonment, there is a range of imprisonment and conditions for the court to consider.

Torres said because the Legislature provided a range of punishments, the trial court must individualize its sentence.

Prior to incarceration in 2014, Lin had worked in the CNMI for almost 20 years as a salesman on Tinian, and then working for his brother at LF Market.

Lin had worked there since 1999.

Following his conviction and incarceration, Lin has been unemployed and is without lawful status in the CNMI.

Lin's wife and their minor daughter have lived in the CNMI since the inception of their relationship in 2004. He has two sons from a prior relationship, both whom are adults and living in China.

Torres said Lin is a model prisoner and the court has received letters of support from persons who know Lin and his character.

Police arrested Lin in July 2012. On Oct. 13, 2013, he pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree before Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

The charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and sexual assault in the second degree were later dropped.

On March 28, 2014, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed the maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Alepuyo later entered her appearance as counsel for Lin. Camacho recused himself from the case as Alepuyo is his wife.

Naraja then reassigned the matter to Kim-Tenorio.

Last July, Lin, through Alepuyo, moved for reduction of sentence. Kim-Tenorio denied the motion.

Lin appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

The high court concluded that the sentencing court's decision was an abuse of discretion, vacated the sentence and directed a resentencing.

Woman allegedly sold 'ice'

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers arrested again on Tuesday a woman who allegedly sells methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Julie Duenas Camacho, 50, was charged with trafficking of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. Her bail was set Tuesday at $100,000 cash; preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 12 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Camacho. Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government.

According to Baisley, task force officers arrested Camacho last Sept. 27 for allegedly selling "ice" to a cooperating source during a controlled "buy-walk" operation.

In an earlier operation, a cooperating source allegedly managed to buy $40 worth of "ice" from Camacho at the latter's house on Capitol Hill. Camacho then said she wanted to assist law enforcers as a confidential informant. The Department of Public Safety agreed to release her without cash bail and sealed the case.

Baisley said that Camacho cooperated with one drug buy operation but has not assisted law enforcers since then. The case was unsealed and Camacho's release was revoked, resulting in her re-arrest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DPL refines services, enforcement

Nine months since the appointment of Marianne Teregeyo as the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands, major developments for sustainable economic growth have been underway.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the overall responsibilities of the Department of Public Lands include the creation and implementation of a homesteading program, the commercial leasing and permitting of idle public lands, the settling of land claims, and designating public land parcels to other government agencies for the fulfillment of public purpose needs.

"Public lands belong to the people of the Commonwealth, and as head of DPL, [Teregeyo] has continued to develop and adopt a strategic land use plan that promotes cultural and economic growth for the benefit of our present and future generations," Torres said.

According to Teregeyo, the plan provides for the efficient and effective management, utilization, disposition and development of public lands for the economic and social betterment of the Commonwealth.

"We have successfully executed and entered into real property leases for four major developments for a dock facility, commercial aquaponics and agriculture, a commercial parking lot, and an integrated resort. Early this year, DPL finalized negotiations for a permit to allow a telecommunications company to install its underground fiber optic infrastructure under public right-of-ways on Saipan. This project will be conducted in phases which DPL will receive fees assessed per linear foot utilized," Teregeyo said.

She said that DPL managed to reduce the waitlisting of eligible homestead applicants whose applications dated back to the '80s.

"We performed over 200 village homestead inspections which included regular monthly inspections, permit extension monitoring and vacant lots. We have issued revocations to non-compliant homesteaders and found vacant lots for issuance to applicants. We anticipate issuing 17 agricultural homesteads on Tinian, 44 on Rota, and more than 200 homestead lots on Saipan with efforts for agricultural homesteads on Pagan soon," Teregeyo said.

To date, DPL's compliance division enforces public land policies for 80 long-term leases and 369 temporary permits.

In addition to this, DPL implemented a new accounting software, which had not been updated since 2002. The system has the ability to maintain a general ledger to improve the integrity of the accounting process.

"This has cleared audit findings from 2014 and has eliminated redundant manual inputting of transactions. At the same time, this has allowed DPL to issue notices for unauthorized use of public lands to encroachers and has received additional revenues as a result of such efforts. We have also created a policy on having uniform issuance and expiration dates which have streamlined our permitting process and accountability," Teregeyo said.

Noting the progress of ongoing developments, Torres stated that DPL has been a crucial component to monitoring balanced and beneficial public land use.

"I commend [Teregeyo] for the clear establishment of regulations that have enabled transparency and consistency for maintaining long-term leases and temporary occupancy. The Department of Public Lands has been instrumental in enforcement of public land policies and services which have eased encroachment issues affecting our Capital Improvement Program, allowing many important projects to progress forward for the benefit of the Commonwealth," Torres said. ***(PR)***

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Tinian leadership meets to discuss issues facing BIG

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas called upon the Tinian leadership and Tinian Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Kimberlyn King-Hinds on Monday to meet with representatives of Bridge Investment Group to discuss ongoing concerns about BIG's siting permit application.

The Tinian leadership had been informed that BIG cannot be granted a major siting permit to proceed with their project because the project is not considered a "port related activity."

During the meeting, San Nicolas expressed that it was the leadership's intent to assist and support BIG as they undergo the major siting permit process.

"We've been informed that the BIG project may have some issues with the [Coastal Resources Management] permitting process and that DPL (Department of Public Lands) may also have concerns with BIG's lease with CPA. We want to be fully briefed of all the issues so that we can figure out how to best address the concerns," said San Nicolas.

King-Hinds explained to the leadership that, as a condition of BIG's lease with CPA, BIG is required to comply with all federal and local laws, rules and regulations, one of which is the CRM/BECQ permitting requirements. CRM has made it clear that under the permitting requirements, a casino development, even one who provides ferry services, is not considered a port related activity.

"As such, CRM may not be granting BIG its permit to develop at the port. The Department of Public Lands has also raised its concerns to CPA that the BIG lease may be in violation DPL's grant of public domain to CPA because CPA has leased out the property to a developer whose activities are not considered port related."

King-Hinds further explained that BIG, CPA, DPL, CRM, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres have met to discuss the matter.

"The governor has stated his unequivocal support of this project and is aware of the major hurdles faced by BIG. It has been suggested that to circumvent CRM permitting requirements, CPA give up the property to DPL and BIG enters into a new lease with DPL, in essence giving up half of the Tinian port."

San Nicolas asked King-Hinds if CPA would support of this decision. According to King Hinds: "I can't answer that question. There may be federal laws or regulations related to border security which precludes CPA from doing that, given the size of the port. Clearly, when this lease was first considered these are questions and issues that should have been addressed in some sort of a due diligence report. To answer that question, CPA has to do its due diligence considering future expansion, actual current port related activities, applicable federal and local laws governing port operations in vetting whether it is even feasible to altogether give up that piece of property."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, on behalf of the delegation, expressed their support of the project and asked BIG representative Trenton Conner how the Tinian Legislative Delegation could assist BIG. Conner requested that the Tinian Delegation request for CPA to draft legislation that gives the port the authority to define "port related" activities. King-Hinds responded, that "even if a law were to pass tomorrow that CPA gets to define 'port related' activities, we can't tell CRM or DPL how to define port related activities."

In concluding the meeting, San Nicolas reiterated the leadership's support and vowed towork with BIG and other government agencies to find a way to move the project forward. ***(PR)***

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge and Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these two locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Students get glimpse of work in 'job shadowing' program

JON PEREZ

Students join Saipan Chamber of Commerce officials after receiving their certificates for taking part in the SCC's Career Exploration Day program yesterday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Career Exploration Day gave participating students a brief glimpse of the work being done in some of the local businesses and companies on the island.

Marianas High School juniors Melissa Santos and Anjennette Cubangbang and Mt. Carmel School senior Joseph Muna were among the 59 students that were spread out in 27 companies that joined the program. Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School were the others schools that participated.

Santos chose Marianas Pacific Distributors where she was assigned to the sales and marketing department. She said that she had fun getting to know the people behind some of the products that are being sold in various stores on the island.

"We went to different stores and checked the products that are displayed on the shelves. And to also see if there are still stocks left, so we could know if the store would place a new order," said Santos.

"I always like to try something new. I enjoyed the experience and I learned a lot from this program. I was not expecting that I would be able to do the things in sales and marketing," added Santos, who plans to go into the medical field when she graduates.

For Cubangbang, taking part in the customer service division of IT&E gave her the chance to direct experience how calls are handled. She plans to take up filmmaking at University of Hawaii after high school.

Muna, meanwhile, experienced how reporters gather information before writing their stories for the next issue. He said he plans to become a writer as English is one of his strongest subjects in school.

"I really like writing essays and poems, that's why I plan to take up English as my major in college. I'm going to the University of Guam in the spring semester since I was late with my application at Seattle University and University of Washington."

"I'm also considering a career in journalism or to take up law. We'll see next year. I'm looking at some colleges and universities in Oregon or Portland," added Muna.

SCC executive director Jill M. Arenovski thanked the companies that took part in the program. "Thank you to so many of you who hosted a student for Career Exploration Day. This program is a great opportunity to introduce the benefits of and opportunities in private business to our islands' students."

I Love Saipan, Burger Comer Magliari, Calvo's Insurance Underwriters, Select Care Health Plans, Chong's Corp., CTSI Logistics, D&Q Saipan, DFS Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, First Hawaiian Bank, Friends First Marketing, Hyatt Regency, IT&E, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Business Plaza, Marianas Visitors Authority, MARPAC, N15 Architecture Co., No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control, Northern Marianas College, Pacific Insurance Underwriters, POI Aviation, Paradise Dental Center, SCC, Century Tours, Xerox Corp., and *Saipan Tribune* were the participating companies in the career program.

Japanese HS students visit Mount Carmel School anew

Mount Carmel School welcomed over 150 students from the all-girls Ikuei Nishi High School yesterday, making it Ikuei's second visit to the school.

Students participated in an opening ceremony as well as games throughout the campus.

Ikuei teacher Rika Shimodama said, "We really appreciate the hospitality of Mount Carmel School. It may be the second time our school has visited but the students participating are actually new ones. Ikuei's students have been preparing for a performance to show appreciation to the students here. I noticed how MCS acknowledged how hard they worked and I really like that."

A student at Mount Carmel, Waren Ellana said, "The visit today is pretty good. It's exciting to meet all of them and just getting to know more about how their culture differs from ours."

The Japanese students paid out of pocket for the trip to Saipan. However, many students such as Yuki Tsujimura expressed how happy they were about their decision to participate.

"On Saipan, people are very kind to us here and we really like to travel overseas to see places such as this. The students are very interesting and whether or not they can speak Japanese, we can tell just how nice they are," said Tsujimura.

"In Japan, the Ikuei Nishi High School students don't really have much opportunities to interact with others from a different country but to come overseas and meet them in person it is a good chance to learn about a different culture as well as teach others our [culture]," Shimodama said. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Japanese high school students challenge Mount Camel School's female basketball school players during Ikuei Nishi High School's visit to Mount Carmel on Dec. 7.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 244

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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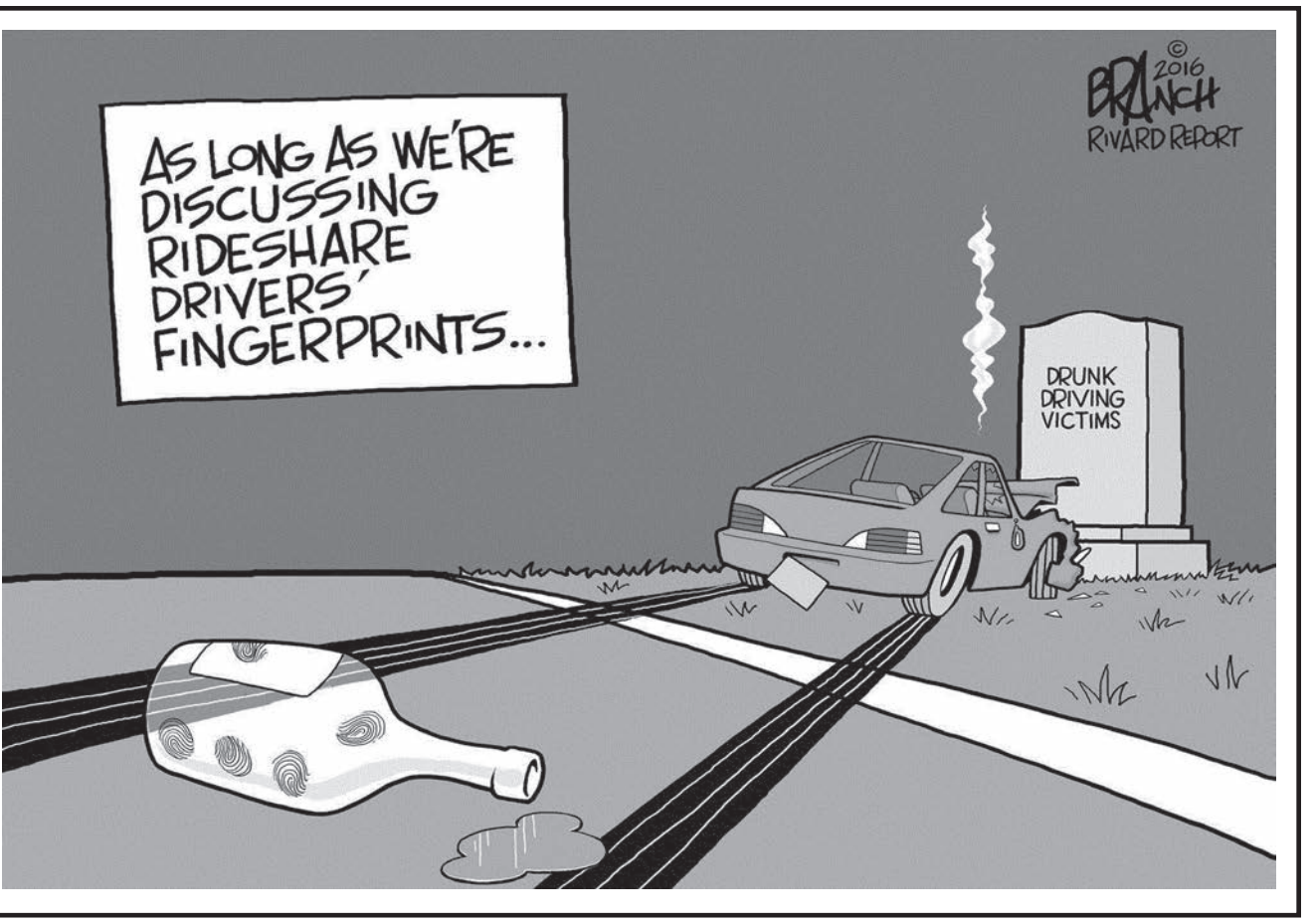

EDITORIAL

Plenty of blame to go around in fatal fire

There were propane tanks stashed in corners, plus space heaters, hot plates, candles, exposed electrical wires dangling from the ceiling. Gas-powered generators hummed mere feet away from handmade light fixtures hooked up with extension cords.

But there was no sprinkler system and only two ways out of the Ghost Ship, a dilapidated Oakland, California, warehouse where at least 36 people died Friday night in a blaze that erupted during an illegal rave. It's one of the deadliest fires in California's history.

The Ghost Ship was a disaster waiting to happen—and everyone who entered the place seemed to know it, for all 10,000 square feet of the warehouse was crammed with old furniture, rugs, makeshift bedrooms, art studios, instruments, old doors and half-finished sculptures.

Recreational vehicles were parked on the ground floor, and a shoddily hand-built staircase to the second level, which became a bottleneck for fleeing ravers, "was literally made out of kindling," according to one artist quoted in The San Francisco Chronicle.

The immediate impulse is to blame the city of Oakland for this horrific fire. The cause hasn't been determined yet, but we know that the artist colony has been on the city's radar for a while. The warehouse wasn't zoned for residential use, nor licensed to be a nightclub, but that it was doing both was no secret.

Neighbors had complained about noise and blight at the Ghost Ship for years. In early 2015, police responded to reports of an illegal rave there. And less than a month ago, city inspectors opened an investigation into the habitability of the warehouse, but were never able to get inside to take a look. Residents have said they were told to hide all evidence of living there if authorities ever showed up.

So, yes, Oakland's lack of aggressive code enforcement certainly should be one place to point fingers. But the sad truth is there's more than enough blame to go around.

There are the rave promoters and underground musicians who decided to hold a show at the Ghost Ship in the first place. One Oakland musician, Jon Hrabko, pushed the event on Facebook for months, getting nearly 600 people to agree to attend.

There's also the property owner, Chor Ng, whose relatives insist they had no idea people were living in the Ghost Ship. And there's the property manager, Derick Ion Almena, who was living in the warehouse with his wife and children, and designed much of the space without permits from the city.

News accounts quote friends as saying they warned Almena repeatedly that the Ghost Ship was a tinderbox that was bound to get people killed, but he laughed them off. In an interview with KGO-TV on Monday, Almena said people who died Friday night "are my children. They are my friends. They are family. They are my loves." Not surprisingly, criminal charges are a possibility.

But at least some blame lies with an invisible culprit—the sky-high housing prices that made a fire trap like the

See PLENTY on Next Page

The case for Romney as secretary of state

By MARGARET CARLSON
Bloomberg View

Margaret Carlson is a Bloomberg View *columnist. Readers may email her at mcarlson3@bloomberg.net.*

Choosing Mitt Romney to be his secretary of state would be the most presidential thing Donald Trump could do.

But that doesn't mean he's going to do it.

Deciding who will be the country's top diplomat is a perfect demonstration of just how hard it is for Trump to act like a president versus being, well, Trump.

On the one hand, by inviting an enemy who called him a phony and a fraud into the room because he could be the best person for the job shows grace in victory.

On the other hand, why shouldn't Trump be Trump and revert to his more familiar impulses? To the amazement of all experts and pundits, it got him to the White House. Why not drag out the selection process? Just as he knows more than the generals about how to defeat Islamic State, Trump know more about being secretary of state. Witness how he treats heads of state like chief executive officers. When Pakistan or Taiwan calls, ladle on the charm. You never know who you'll want to make a deal with. For those who had hoped he would grow into the job, Trump's conduct in the transition suggests he's not able to adjust to his new circumstances.

In the president-elect's first post-election event in Cincinnati on Thursday, he was unable to De-Trump himself. He seemed happier than he had for a long time, and certainly more at ease than in his victory speech, when he almost looked stricken. He detoured from the script, to gin up the audience to fever pitch. "We did have a lot of fun fighting Hillary. Didn't we?" Trump said, beaming as the crowd loudly chanted "Lock her up!"

Then, with the boyish enthusiasm and mischief that Melania described, Trump couldn't keep secret a minute longer: He told the crowd that James "Mad Dog" Mattis, a retired Marine general, would be his secretary of defense.

State is arguably Trump's most important cabinet appointment, and he is keeping the suspense intact, toggling between personas—gracious victor and vengeful victim. One part of him thinks that Romney, the CEO of the global firm Bain Capital, a turnaround artist who saved the Salt Lake City Olympics, and the party's nominee in 2012, would have the stature and gravitas for the job. He liked that Romney made a warm, congratulatory call. He hosted him at his golf club with a big thumbs-up after. He complimented Romney for "looking the part."

OK, but Romney dissed Trump bigly and Trump's nonpresidential side likes nothing better than getting even, and then some. It took a while, but one reason friends say Trump ran for president was to show the establishment he wasn't letting the ridicule heaped on him by President Barack Obama at the White House Correspondents Dinner in 2011 go unanswered. The dealmaker, and breaker, knows revenge is a dish best served cold.

While General David Petraeus, Gen. John Kelly and Senator Bob Corker came and went, Romney got the only invitation to a fancy dinner at the Trump International Hotel. But the dinner was more "Godfather" than the "Odd Couple." Three men looking more pained—Chief of Staff-designate Reince Prebius chaperoned—would be hard to imagine. Romney ordered scallops and then ate crow for reporters waiting outside right after, which may have been Trump's plan. Aides said Romney would have to grovel to be considered and so he did, gushing over the man who had derided him as a "loser" who "choked like a dog" in his 2012 campaign. Romney said that by getting elected Trump "did something I tried to do and was unsuccessful in," and that the president-elect could be "the very man who can lead us to that better future."

All but a bro-hug. About watching Romney recant and twist slowly in the wind, former Speaker Newt Gingrich said, "You have never, ever, in your career seen a wealthy adult who is independent, has been a presidential candidate, suck up at the rate that Mitt Romney is sucking up," adding that "Every day they let this thing hang out there it becomes harder and more expensive to pick Romney."

Indeed. Although Trump later said dinner was pleasant, it wasn't pleasant enough to keep him from adding yet another candidate. He's now interviewing Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, a curious addition, unless he's decided to fulfill a campaign promise of confiscating oil in Middle Eastern countries.

So is this the show that will open at the White House on Inauguration Day or could we get a president being all presidential? If Trump brings his nonpresidential act to the Oval Office, it's hard to see how he manages Speaker Paul Ryan or Senators Mitch McConnell or Chuck Schumer. Unlike Romney, they don't come as supplicants, vying for his favor. They have jobs in a co-equal branch of government.

There's an old joke about how Richard Nixon grew in the presidency when he stopped pouring ketchup on his cottage cheese. Trump has to do his own growing, moving from Twitter president-elect to a sober and grounded president. He only has a little more than a month to do it.

He could start by choosing the best man for secretary of state.

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Pizzagate fake news lunacy is dangerous

By JESSE JACKSON
Tribune News Service

You can write to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in care of this newspaper or by email at jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.

On Sunday, a man armed with an assault weapon marched into a popular pizza place—Comet Ping Pong—in Washington. He said he had come to "self-investigate" false stories spread by hate sites that the restaurant was the center of a Hillary Clinton ring trafficking in children. He fired his rifle at least once, police say, and was arrested. Luckily, no one was injured.

In the wake of the utterly baseless and scurrilous stories spread over social media, the restaurant owner and staff have been inundated with death threats. The lunatic conspiracy was spun off of WikiLeaks' publication of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta corresponding with the owner about a possible fund-raiser. The neighbors who know and love the restaurant have rallied to its support.

But under the hashtag #pizzagate, the hate stories keep spreading—and the threats keep building.

President-elect Donald Trump, this ugliness is poisonous and dangerous. But it keeps spreading. On Nov. 2, a few days before the election, Gen. Michael Flynn, the man you appointed as your national security adviser, issued a tweet tying Hillary Clinton to sex crimes with minors. The full text reads as follows:

"U decide—NYPD Blows Whistle on New Hillary Emails: Money Laundering, Sex Crimes w Children etc...MUST READ." It linked to an article on the website True Pundit. That article, which didn't mention Comet Ping Pong, alleged—fantastically—that the NYPD had new evidence linking "Clinton herself and associates" to a series of crimes.

I'm told that Gen. Flynn now says he was duped. But how can anyone with common sense choose to spread a report that Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president and former secretary of state, was involved in sex crimes with children. This isn't partisan animus. It isn't the excesses of the heat of an election.

It is simple lunacy.

After the shooting on Sunday, Politico reported that Gen. Flynn's son, an adviser to his father, tweeted: "Until #Pizzagate proven to be false, it'll remain a story. The left seems to forget #PodestaEmails and the many 'coincidences' tied to it." He linked to the account of the special projects director of a group called Citizens4Trump. He chose to fan the flames.

I realize that Gen. Flynn supported you when you were the underdog. Having run as an outsider, I understand the deep sense of loyalty and appreciation that builds for those who were with you from the start, when the odds were long, the establishment scornful and the press dismissive. It is to be expected that you will want those you can trust around you in the White House.

But as you know, this campaign—which you have correctly described as "the nastiest"—has fanned anger, division and fear in the country. It is vital, as you have stated, that the country come together.

For this to happen, you must lead. The president is the great teacher. What you say and how you act will set the tone. So I respectfully suggest you reconsider your appointment of Flynn. It is inconceivable that the national security adviser to the president would traffic a report that Hillary Clinton was engaged in sex crimes with minors.

You have stated that you want Democrats and Republicans to work together. But how can any Democrat work with a White House whose national security adviser fanned lunatic rumors that the Democratic candidate for president was engaged in sex crimes?

Flynn is not the only appointment that raises fears. Sen. Jeff Sessions, with a long history of venom toward people of color, is not fit to be attorney general. But at least Sessions must face Senate confirmation. Flynn is your decision alone.

When people are frightened, hatred can spiral out of control. I've witnessed this time and again during the civil rights movement, when citizens in both the South and the North were enflamed into assaults on nonviolent and peaceful demonstrators. Leaders can fan those flames, and they can help calm those fears.

That is why I make this simple moral appeal that you stand clearly against the hate and seek to calm the fears in what you say, how you act and who you put in your administration. Your appointments reflect what you think is acceptable.

You draw the line. I implore you to draw it wisely.

PLENTY

From Page 10

Ghost Ship acceptable to so many young people in the first place. Residents paid $500 to $1,500 a month for space there, a bargain in the Bay Area, where affordable housing is all but nonexistent. The result was a cool, freewheeling, communal space for artists to live, work and play, even if it was also a hazard.

Such warehouses are magnets for upstart electronic dance artists for many of the same reasons. They want to perform but need to do it on the cheap. And so artist enclaves that host underground raves dot Oakland and many other cities across California. Cities must remain vigilant.

No rave is worth someone's life.

(c)2016 *The Sacramento Bee* (Sacramento, Calif.)

Ancient artifact looks like Rodin's 'Thinker'

Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker" is one of the masterpieces of early 20th century art. It is instantly recognizable even to schoolchildren. The image of the seated figure contemplating its existence has been a staple of popular culture for decades. It may soon have company on that existential stage.

In September, school kids near Tel Aviv helped archeologists from the Israel Antiques Authority uncover a clay vessel and broken figurine that was very reminiscent of "The Thinker." The interesting thing about the discovery is that this version of "The Thinker" is 3,800 years old.

After removing several millennia of clay and dirt and reattaching the figure to the jug it was connected to, the archeologists have been able to get a better look at it—and it is a stunner. For a piece of art created during the Bronze Age, it looks curiously familiar—like someone trying to remember where he left his cell phone. Have humans always been this perplexed?

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

(c)2016 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I donut niid edukashun; I hab kommon cents

Editor's Note: The following is being published as a series due to its length.

In exchange for numerous trips to Australia for him and his wife, the mayor of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Sakhalin in Russia had an Australian company build a brick factory on city land for the city's use...for a hefty price. You're right—it never operated (and stands tall today near the railroad station). Why? It's because Sakhalin does not have the correct soil for brick-making. There was a grain of sincerity but it was overcome by ignorance and greed.

The people of the CNMI were offered an $81 million state-of-the-art ferry to be brought to Rota for free, put on the land with money from a federal fund so people could see the seriousness of the people, designs made for terminals on Rota and Guam made and executed, and selection of a sub-contractor who would operate it. It would have started to operate last November (one year ago) carrying cars, trucks, equipment, containers, and 125 passengers—easily doubled to 250 seats. There was a fund that would be used to train the sub-contractor's crew to operate the equipment and money available for three years of fuel! Yet we lost a huge revenue-generating machine what would have been followed by more but sincerity is no substitute for rightly applying knowledge and understanding and it's expressed in wisdom.

Ideas: Some don't seem to realize that the CNMI is not the idea/ innovation/ invention/ creativity-generating center of the universe. So when a well-intentioned, educated, wise person approaches them with an idea or concept, it's rejected. "If it's not mine, it's no good!" "Only my ideas are worthy of merit!" Then they sometimes call a friend about what they were told, and that person profits while the initial individual is rejected or blocked.

I realize that just because a person has an idea, doesn't mean that it's a good idea, or that it's feasible or timely. But consider Kalabera Cave: It has three levels—the entrance level, 60 feet down is the second level, and then in the back over to the left is a berm. And behind this berm is a 20-foot diameter vertical, volcanic hole that drops down 100 feet. At the bottom, there is a horizontal tunnel that, at one point, splits into two. It's said that one of these tunnels terminates at the ocean. Now, tell me, as a tourist (or local, for that matter) wouldn't it be interesting to descend in a 20-foot diameter, 100-foot hole in pitch blackness within a volcanic island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean then explore horizontal, volcanic tunnels few have ever seen...and do this without damaging the resource in any way? I think it would. My friend came up with this concept along with the relatively inexpensive (but safe) equipment to conduct such a tour but the government seems a barrier even in their slowness.

Ask yourself: Can I name one Chamorro inventor? We all want things but we won't make the effort to cultivate those things...food, entrepreneurship, innovation, inventiveness, creativity...and the list goes on. Consider....

" (fill in) has so much potential!" You've probably said those words to yourself or out loud. Take Rota for example: What great potential. But what's been going on for the past 30 years to put that potential to use? Little or nothing. It's heading backwards and not looking to people who can really help jump-start the economy.

Consider our kids who want to do something different such as get an education off-island and how often treat them badly. It's "Crabs in a Box." One of our kids senses that there's something to be gained "outside" but, as he climbs, he's pulled back down by the others. And if you've ever seen land crabs in a box, they not only pull the rebel down, they kill him! Just as we kill the spirit of our kids. How about the legend of Taga? One day he observes his son pull a coconut tree out of the ground to gain access to a coconut crab. His reaction? He kills his son. What an inspiration to our kids, eh? They hear it in a story and the see it in real life. Maybe it's time to update the story? Taga sees his son, comes out of hiding, approaches his son and tells him how strong and wise he's becoming. And with a bit more help from the elders including his father, he will one day become a great leader. That's motivating, eh? That's what I'd like to see done on Rota to stop the migration of families off the island and get those who have left to return. If you're looking for inspiration, check out a copy of the (very) old movie, *Son of Kong*. Watch the ending. It is what Christ did. It is how we are to treat our kids—thrust them out of harm's way to continue to do well. A generation ago, the people on Rota worked extra hard at farming and sold land that they weren't using in order to send their kids to college. Now, take a look at the people from Rota who are providing wisdom to the CNMI, especially at our judicial system.

To be continued

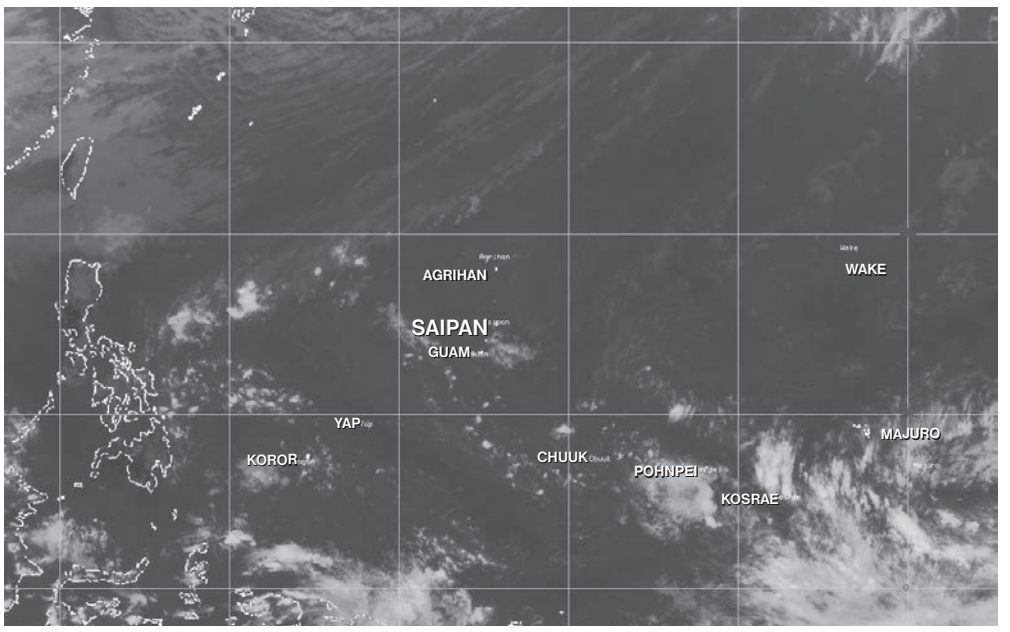
Arnold J. Mesa
Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87º ▼79º	▲89º ▼78º	▲89º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:46 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies were pushed ahead to Wednesday through Thursday night. The GFS still indicates a little deeper moisture along with some cloudiness and a few showers early Wednesday and again Thursday through Thursday night. Otherwise, pleasant trade-wind weather is expected this week. The area of disturbed weather just southeast of Koror is poorly organized today, but will be monitored in the coming days. Only minor changes were made to the forecasts and gridded data.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	81 / 87 °F
Palau	Heavy rain	80 / 84 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Strong thunderstorms	79 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	76 / 84 °F
Kosrae	Sunny	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	82 / 86 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Morning clouds	62 / 71 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	24 / 42 °F
Hong Kong	High level clouds	62 / 71 °F
Honolulu	Overcast	68 / 73 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	51 / 56 °F
Los Angeles	Partly sunny	45 / 66 °F
Manila	Partly sunny	79 / 91 °F
Melbourne	Partly sunny	55 / 71 °F
Miami	Overcast	74 / 81 °F
New York	Partly sunny	36 / 44 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	40 / 56 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	33 / 47 °F
Pusan	High level clouds	33 / 51 °F
Rome	Sunny	34 / 54 °F
Salem	Overcast	31 / 43 °F
San Francisco	Light rain	49 / 60 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	19 / 44 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	35 / 54 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	32 / 45 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.38 Feet
7:39 AM	LOW TIDE	0.33 Feet
2:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97 Feet
9:22 PM	LOW TIDE	0.65 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:23 AM	12:59 PM
Friday	-	1:18 AM	1:45 PM
Saturday	-	2:15 AM	2:32 PM
Sunday	-	3:14 AM	3:22 PM
Monday	-	4:16 AM	4:15 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

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Business

Guam welcomes Mariana Ocean to GVB *familia*

The Guam Visitors Bureau announced yesterday the newest member of the Håfa Adai Pledge *familia*. Mariana Ocean took the pledge to perpetuate and keep alive Guam's Håfa Adai spirit by using natural and local products when available.

By using natural and local ingredients in their handmade soaps, hand creams and lip butters, Mariana Ocean embodies living the Håfa Adai Pledge.

» Saipan business celebrates grand opening of new Guam location

Mariana Ocean made its debut as the one and only cosmetic brand on Saipan at the Mariana Resort & Spa. Yesterday, they celebrated their newest Guam location with a Håfa Adai Pledge signing and ribbon cutting ceremony at The Plaza.

Gloria Cavanagh, executive vice president of Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., shared why taking the pledge was so important to Mariana Ocean, "In 2013, Yoshihiro Kitami, president of Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., wanted to share the beauty of the Marianas through a locally made product that represented beauty and healing powers. Kitami-san was enlightened by the local traditional healing process used by our local *siruhana* or *siruhanu*. The practice and use of traditional medicine is one that the local people still have in existence in which local plants and floras are processed for oral and external medicines, to include beautification of the skin and hair care by using such plants as coconut and papaya." The Håfa Adai Pledge signing concluded with a special ribbon cutting ceremony and a soap making demonstration in their store.

GVB

From left, Guam Visitors Bureau, tourism research analyst Nick Yasuhiro, Guam Visitors Bureau president and CEO Nate Denigh, Mariana Ocean, store manager and product director Miki Wilson, Mariana Ocean, executive vice president of Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd. Gloria Cavanagh, GVB cultural heritage officer Dee Hernandez, GVB director of Finance and Administration Rose Cunliffe, and GVB director of Tourism Research Ana Cid at the Håfa Adai Pledge ceremony held at The Plaza on Tuesday, Dec. 6 2016.

The Håfa Adai Pledge

The Håfa Adai Pledge program is the cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign. In its seventh year, the Håfa Adai Pledge program has grown steadily in the number of participants as well as the commitment of individual pledges. In March of 2016, GVB reached a significant milestone, welcoming its 600th pledge, representing more than 33, 000 individuals from private businesses, government agencies, non-profits and other organizations that have joined the Håfa Adai Pledge program. ***(GVB)***

Mindful of Amazon, malls take the Santa experience high-tech

NEW YORK (AP)—Hop on a virtual sleigh ride to the North Pole. Stand on the "Naughty or Nice O'Meter." Snap a selfie and see your face on a dancing elf. The Santa experience has gotten a makeover as many malls install shows and games they hope will lure shoppers who are buying more online.

About 40 malls in the U.S. and one in London have the high-tech Santa displays, most of them located near major cities that tend to house pricier stores. Taking photos on Santa's lap costs about $30 and up, around the same as at other malls, but most of the malls say people can walk through without purchasing anything.

"It was a half-hour of entertainment that was free," says Katie Mass, who took her twin daughters through Santa's Flight Academy, a 3,000-square-foot setup at The Mall at Short Hills in New Jersey.

She had gone to the mall to return some dresses, but had to stop when her 2-year olds saw the spectacle. "They started running," says the stay-at-home mom from Westfield, New Jersey.

The girls tapped touch screens, pulled levers and watched as flight suits were virtually fit over their bodies on a screen. The final stop was a two-story tall enclosed sleigh that dropped fake snow upon them. One girl made snow angels on the floor while her sister danced under the colorful lasers. "It was extravagant and well done," says Mass.

Malls are hoping the over-the-top Santa visits remind people what brick-and-mortar stores can offer. They're increasingly trying to offer special experiences as they compete with online rivals, says Howard Davidowitz, chairman of New York-based retail consulting group Davidowitz & Associates.

"The parents love it, the kids love it and Amazon can't do it," says Davidowitz.

MVA

ERRATUM

This is to correct and replace an erroneous photo in a Marianas Visitor Authority press release titled, "MVA a Hit at China International Travel Mart" that was released on Dec. 5. The correct photo is shown here. The photo caption remains the same: Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan Pierce, third from right, and MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, far right, met China National Tourism Administration chair Li Jinzao, second from left, and Shanghai vice mayor Zhao Wen, third from left, at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 11-13, 2016, in Shanghai. Since its debut inception in 2001, the CITM has become the largest travel mart in Asia, supported by global travel industry factions.

'Nonconfrontational' boss shouldn't ignore obvious personnel issue

Q: Ever since my position was upgraded, one of my co-workers has become belligerent and rude. "Carrie" refuses to say good morning or goodbye and she no longer responds to my emails about client issues. When I transfer calls, she answers her phone with an irritated "Yeah?" Most of the time, she barely acknowledges my existence.

Because this office only has three employees, Carrie's negativity makes the environment very unpleasant. Our boss is a nonconfrontational type, so talking to him hasn't helped. However, he said he would get involved if her attitude begins to affect the business. Now I dread going to work every day. What should I do?

A: Let's start by considering what your "nonconfrontational" boss should have done. Since managers are responsible for controlling disruptive employees, dismissing your complaint was a gutless move. Instead, he should have called Carrie in for a serious chat and put an end to her sulky little tantrum.

Fortunately, however, his cowardly delaying tactic does provide an opening for you to revisit the issue. Because Carrie's conduct creates obvious business problems, you can legitimately request your manager's intervention.

For example: "I'm afraid the problem with Carrie has only gotten worse. Since she won't answer my emails, I am unable to resolve certain client issues. Her rude response to transferred calls makes a bad impression on customers. Carrie doesn't have to like me, but we do have to work together. Could you talk to her about this?"

Hopefully your boss will finally grow a spine. But in any event, you need to understand that Carrie's only objective is to get a reaction from you. Because passive-aggressive people are afraid to express feelings directly, they convey their resentment through childish pouting. So if this appears to upset you, Carrie will be delighted.

To eliminate this reward, you must ignore Carrie's juvenile antics and act completely normal. Smile, be pleasant and always say good morning. When you transfer a call, disregard her surly greeting and simply state, "I have Mr. Smith on the line for you."

Should Carrie fail to answer important emails, send them again and copy your manager. If there is still no reply, ask your boss to get the information from her. He will eventually tire of this game and tell her to cut it out. As long as you insure that Carrie's cranky attitude never produces the desired result, odds are that she will gradually let it go.

Q: I am applying for a promotion that will be determined by an interview panel. Even though this position reports to my supervisor, she has no say in the decision. Unfortunately, she has already made it clear that she doesn't think I'm a good fit for the job. Should I ask why she feels this way?

A: Regardless of whether you get promoted, requesting an honest assessment from your boss is an excellent idea. Schedule a time to discuss her view of your career potential and then develop a plan for addressing any concerns. She will undoubtedly appreciate your non-defensive approach. And if she makes some valid points, her feedback may actually help you be more successful.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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Nation

Trump interjects himself in Air Force One, business deals

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump, a political newcomer who touts his corporate skills, turned businessman-in-chief Tuesday, first demanding the government cancel a multi-billion-dollar order for new presidential planes and then hailing a Japanese company's commitment to invest billions in the U.S.

"We will defend American jobs. We have to look at it almost like a war," Trump thundered in North Carolina, vowing to keep companies from moving overseas during the second stop of his "thank you" tour to salute his supporters. "We want the next generation of innovation and production to happen right here in America."

Trump was far less bombastic than during the tour's kick-off in Ohio last week, striking more of the healing notes traditionally delivered by a president-to-be in the weeks after a bruising election. He will travel to Ohio State University on Thursday to meet with some of the victims of the recent car-and-knife attack that left 11 people injured, according to a person familiar with the plans but not authorized to discuss them before they are announced.

AP

President-elect Donald Trump, accompanied by SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, speaks to members of the media at Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016.

"We will heal our divisions and unify our country. When Americans are unified there is nothing we cannot do—nothing!" Trump told the crowd in Fayetteville. "I'm asking you to dream big again as Americans. I'm asking you to believe in yourselves."

The Republican businessman largely stuck to the script Tuesday—and, in a change, even stopped the crowd when it started to boo the media—and avoided some of the score-settling and scorched-earth rhetoric that defined his campaign and was present again last week in Cincinnati. He also repeated his vow to fortify the nation's military and brought Marine Gen. James Mattis on stage, officially naming his choice to be Defense Secretary after teasing it last week.

Earlier in the day, Trump plainly telegraphed that when he takes office in six weeks he'll take an interventionist role in the nation's economy—as well as play showman when he sees a chance. The celebrity businessman's declaration about Air Force One caused manufacturer Boeing's stock to drop temporarily and raised fresh questions about how his administration—not to mention his Twitter volleys—could affect the economy.

"The plane is totally out of control," Trump told reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower. "I think Boeing is doing a little bit of a number. We want Boeing to make a lot of money, but not that much money." Earlier he had tweeted that the deal's costs were "out of control, more than $4 billion. Cancel order!"

Not long after his first appearance, Trump returned to the lobby with Masayoshi Son, the CEO of SoftBank, a massive telecommunications company that counts Sprint among its holdings. Trump pointed proudly to Son's commitment to invest $50 billion in the United States, which Trump said could create 50,000 jobs.

Trump—who also tweeted the deal—shook Son's hand and posed for photos, reveling as he had last week when he toured a Carrier plant in Indiana where he said he had instigated an agreement that will preserve about 1,000 jobs the appliance maker had planned to move to Mexico. Details of the deal were scarce and it was unclear if the money was part of a fund of up to $100 billion in global technology investments that SoftBank and the government of Saudi Arabia announced in October.

Pipeline opponents ride out storm in shelters, casino

MANDAN, N.D. (AP)—Some protesters who have been fighting the Dakota Access pipeline retreated to a nearby casino and area shelters overnight as a blizzard blew through, but many remained at a camp in southern North Dakota, according to protest organizers who say they're committed to maintaining the camp through the winter.

The storm Monday and Tuesday brought more than half a foot of snow, wind gusts exceeding 50 mph and temperatures that felt as cold as 15 degrees below zero. For some not accustomed to often-harsh North Dakota winters, the weather was eye-opening.

"Scary," said Melissa Thorpe, 30, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who had been staying in a teepee with a dozen other people at the large encampment but headed to a shelter overnight.

Protesters are maintaining a presence even after scoring a victory when the Army on Sunday said it would not issue an easement for the $3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault reiterated his call Tuesday for protesters to leave, saying the Army's decision has delayed the pipeline for months and there's no reason for people to put their lives at risk.

Morton County set up emergency shelters at storm-closed school facilities in Mandan and Flasher after sheriff's deputies responded to numerous stranded vehicles in the protest camp area, according to spokeswoman Maxine Herr. Only one protester went to the Flasher school; about 30, including Thorpe, spent the night in a Mandan school gymnasium.

Thorpe and fellow pipeline opponents couldn't find a hotel room and "thought we were going to be sleeping in our car at Wal-Mart," she said. "We're so happy (the shelter) is here."

Many remained at the camp overnight, according to Jade Begay, of Tesuque, New Mexico, who said she stayed in a yurt heated by a wood stove and had to fix a roof panel that was blown off the tent-like structure.

"I was awake most of the night. It was pretty intense," Begay said.

Critics worry after Trump security chief fuels conspiracies

WASHINGTON (AP)—On issues of national security and intelligence, no one is likely to have more influence in Donald Trump's White House than retired Gen. Michael T. Flynn.

Yet Flynn, Trump's incoming national security adviser, has gained prominence in Republican politics by fueling conspiracy theories and Islamophobic rhetoric that critics warn could create serious distractions—or alienate allies and embolden enemies—if it continues.

"His job is to ensure that the White House is focused at all times on all of the threats that the United States faces abroad," said Julianne Smith, a former deputy national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. She said she was "deeply troubled" by a Flynn tendency to promote fake news stories on his Twitter feed.

"You don't want to have a distracted national security adviser," said Smith, who now directs the strategy and statecraft program at the Center for a New American Security.

She was among several national security experts who raised concerns Tuesday about Flynn's willingness to share bad intelligence on a social media feed as he prepares to move to the West Wing.

Flynn served until 2014 as the head of U.S. military intelligence. Although he left that job over disputes with the Obama administration over policy and his management of the Defense Intelligence Agency, he is widely regarded as a top intelligence officer, a job that requires an understanding of the power of disinformation.

The issue of sharing fake news was highlighted when Flynn's son, Michael G. Flynn, tweeted about the false idea that prompted a shooting at a Washington, D.C., pizza parlor. He had been promoting a conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton's allies had been operating a secret pedophilia ring in the restaurant and noted it would remain a story until "proven to be false."

Vice President-elect Mike Pence acknowledged Tuesday that the younger Flynn was helping his father with scheduling and administrative items during the presidential transition but told CNN "that's no longer the case."

Did authorities miss opportunities to prevent tragic fire?

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—City and state officials fielded years of complaints about dangerous conditions, drugs, neglected children, trash, thefts and squabbles at the illegally converted warehouse where 36 partygoers were killed in a weekend fire, with inspectors knocking on the door as recently as two weeks before the blaze.

With all the attention from police, child welfare authorities, building inspectors and others, some of those who saw what was going on at the underground artists' colony say they figured time and again that authorities would shut it all down.

But they never did.

"It makes me so sad that all this has been there this whole long time," said neighbor Phyllis Waukazoo. "This was an accident waiting to happen. That could have been prevented."

Mayor Libby Schaaf deflected questions about whether more aggressive action by authorities could have prevented the tragedy at the cluttered, ramshackle building known as the Ghost Ship.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and prosecutors said they are looking into the possibility of criminal charges.

On Tuesday, sheriff's Deputy Tya Modeste said the families of 26 of the victims had been notified. She said that an additional nine bodies have been tentatively identified and that officials have been unable to identify one victim at all.

Record searches and interviews by The Associated Press indicate that the couple who leased the warehouse and turned it into rented living spaces and artists' studios, Derick Ion Almena and Micah Allison, were already under scrutiny by several agencies.

Some of those agencies had been told or could have seen for themselves that the family of five and their dozens of artist tenants were living in a warehouse that had no permit to operate as a living space and allegedly had no proper kitchen, electricity, adequate fire exits or solid stairs.

Almena, 46, is on probation for receiving stolen property, an Airstream trailer he was accused of stealing and stashing at the warehouse. The terms of his probation allowed authorities to enter his home without a warrant, records show.

Child welfare workers had taken away the couple's three children in mid-2015 but returned them by this past summer, despite the illegal conditions at the warehouse and the children being hungry, infested with lice and frequently truant, Micah Allison's father and other acquaintances said.

Almena confirmed in a 2015 document that child welfare workers visited the warehouse at least twice.

Child welfare authorities refused to comment on the family, citing privacy laws.

In returning the children, the authorities set certain conditions, including that the youngsters be out of the warehouse during the many parties held there, according to those who knew the couple.

Asia

Earthquake rocks Indonesia's Aceh province; at least 27 dead

MEUREUDU, Indonesia (AP)—A strong undersea earthquake rocked Indonesia's Aceh province early on Wednesday, killing at least 27 people and causing dozens of buildings to collapse.

A frantic rescue effort involving dozens of villagers, soldiers and police was underway in Meureudu, a severely affected town in Pidie Jaya district, which was closest to the quake's epicenter. Excavators and rescuers were trying to remove debris from shop and other buildings where people were believed buried.

The national disaster mitigation agency said 27 people died and 78 were badly injured. Pidie Jaya District chief Aiyub Abbas said 25 people were killed in that district alone. A local health agency said eight were young children.

More than 40 buildings including mosques, stores and homes were flattened in the district located 18 kilometers (11 miles) southwest of the epicenter, according to Abbas. Roads cracked and power poles toppled over. Abbas said there is an urgent need for excavation equipment to move heavy debris and emergency supplies. TV footage showed rescue personnel taking bodies in black bags away from the rubble.

AP

Rescuers recover the body of a victim of an earthquake under the rubble of a collapsed building in Pidie Jaya, Aceh province, Indonesia, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the shallow 6.5 magnitude earthquake that struck at 5:03 a.m. (2203 GMT Tuesday) was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Reuleut, a town in northern Aceh, at a depth of 17 kilometers (11 miles). It did not generate a tsunami.

For Acehnese, the quake was another reminder of their region's vulnerability to natural disasters. More than 100,000 died in Aceh after the Dec. 26 earthquake that triggered a devastating tsunami.

"It was very bad, the tremors felt even stronger than 2004 earthquake," said Musman Aziz, a Meureudu resident. "I was so scared the tsunami was coming."

In the capital Jakarta, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said he has ordered all government agencies to take part in the rescue efforts.

Seaside resident Fitri Abidin in Pidie Jaya said she fled with her husband and wailing children to a nearby hill after the quake jolted the family awake early in the morning. They stayed there for several hours until authorities reassured them there was no tsunami risk.

PH probe: police murdered drug-linked mayor in jail

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government's investigation agency said Tuesday it has filed murder complaints against two dozen police officers and personnel after a probe showed they shot to death a jailed town mayor linked to illegal drugs and that there was no gunbattle as claimed by the law enforcers.

The National Bureau of Investigation said the Nov. 5 shooting to death of Mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. and another inmate, Raul Yap, in their cells at a jail in the central province of Leyte was a "rubout." It said the policemen most likely put pistols and illegal drugs in their cells to justify a police raid.

The findings cast a black mark on President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly anti-drug crackdown, which has alarmed Western governments and human rights groups. There have been suspicions that some of the more than 4,000 slain drug suspects may have been killed deliberately by law enforcers and did not die in gunbattles as claimed by police.

NBI spokesman Ferdinand Lavin said the bureau filed the criminal complaints against policemen led by Superintendent Marvin Wynn Marcos, who heads the regional office of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, at the Department of Justice on Friday. Prosecutors will rule whether there is enough evidence to indict the policemen.

All the policemen involved in the raid at the jail conspired to kill Espinosa and Yap and cover up the murders, Lavin said.

"After conducting an exhaustive investigation of the incidents surrounding the killing of Mayor Espinosa and Yap, the NBI concluded that the testimonies of several witnesses had disputed the claim of an alleged shootout," the NBI said.

Espinosa's death has sparked skepticism even among politicians backing Duterte's crackdown because of the apparent brazenness of the killings. He had surrendered to the national police chief in a nationally televised event after he and more than 160 other officials were named publicly by Duterte in August as part of a shame campaign.

Espinosa was later released, but was arrested and jailed in October after being indicted on drug and firearm charges. His son, an alleged drug lord, was arrested in the United Arab Emirates in October and has been repatriated to the Philippines, where he has acknowledged past involvement in illegal drugs.

A few days before the police raided the Leyte jail, authorities made a thorough search of the detention center but found no guns or illegal drugs so it was impossible for Espinosa and Yap to have guns and drugs in their cells, the NBI said.

World

Syria says it seized nearly 75 percent of eastern Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces and allied militias captured Aleppo's centrally located al-Shaar neighborhood from rebels on Tuesday, securing nearly three quarters of the besieged enclave less than two weeks after launching a ground offensive, according to the Syrian military.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia meanwhile rejected a cease-fire for the war-torn city, keeping up the military offensive amid rebel retreats and massive displacement.

Rebels withdrew from al-Shaar under heavy bombardment by pro-government forces to the Marjeh and Maadi neighborhoods, local media activist Mahmoud Raslan told The Associated Press. Several gunmen were killed.

"Morale has hit rock bottom," he said from inside the city's remaining rebel-held enclave.

The SANA state news agency said the government captured the entire neighborhood as well as the neighborhoods of al-Qatarji and Karm al-Dada.

A map provided by the Syria army showed a quickly shrinking opposition enclave- a pointed leaf-shaped territory in the center, abutting already government-controlled Aleppo districts. The army media said the new gains bring the area controlled by the government in eastern Aleppo to about 73 percent of its original size, which is estimated to be about 45 square kilometers (17 square miles.)

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group also reported the gains.

Al-Shaar was home to at least four hospitals available to residents trapped by the government's siege of the eastern part of the city. But those hospitals, along the rest of the neighborhood, were bombed by the government's attacks and evacuated. Broad swaths of the city's eastern quarters are in ruins.

Ibrahim al-Haj, a civil defense member, said he was in the neighborhood shortly before it fell to the government. "It is totally destroyed," he said, adding that if he had stayed a minute longer he would have been captured. He said the previously densely populated district had largely been deserted since the government forces first moved in on the eastern districts last weekend.

A government intense aerial offensive had preceded the ground troops' advances.

Rebel defenses are collapsing under the weight of twin offensives by pro-government forces.

Rebels and pro-government forces fought street-to-street in the city's southern Saif al-Dawleh and al-Zabadiyeh neighborhoods, according to footage provided by Syrian military media and audio provided by local teacher and media activist Abdelkafi Alhamdo.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia on Tuesday issued stark warnings to rebels in besieged eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo, with Moscow's top diplomat saying the rebels will be wiped out unless they stop fighting and leave the city.

Putin's Russia seeks to project power with modern military

MOSCOW (AP)—With an aircraft carrier deployed off Syria's shores and hundreds of new jets, missiles and tanks entering service each year, President Vladimir Putin can project Russian military power on a scale unseen since Soviet times.

A massive reform effort launched in the wake of Russia's 2008 war with Georgia has transformed a crumbling, demoralized military into agile forces capable of swift action in Ukraine and Syria. Long gone are the days when Russia was forced through financial hardship to scrap dozens of warships and ground most of its air force. Whereas many young men long dodged their obligatory military service, recruits today speak of extending assignments in a better equipped, trained and paid army.

"The military reform has given Russia, the Kremlin (and) Mr. Putin a usable instrument of foreign policy which Russia did not have for a quarter century," said Dmitry Trenin , director of the Carnegie Moscow Center think tank.

This dawning reality casts a shadow from Moscow to Washington and beyond. The key question: Will an emboldened Putin keep deploying his forces in bitterly disputed unilateral actions, or could the U.S. election of Donald Trump mean a potential thaw in relations and new era of cooperation? Trump's nominee for national security adviser, retired U.S. Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn , has said he sees Russia as a possible military partner in Syria and elsewhere.

Putin's military power today stands in stark contrast to the dying days of the Soviet Union, when Russia inherited the bulk of the 4-million-strong Soviet army, conscript-heavy forces it could barely afford to feed.

Russia rapidly reduced those ranks to just over 1 million and then found itself struggling through much of the 1990s to defeat rebels in the breakaway republic of Chechnya. Russia's military has 1 million soldiers today.

During its five-day war with tiny Georgia, army units starved of new equipment for 15 years experienced chronic vehicle breakdowns, communications failures and friendly-fire casualties from inaccurate salvos. Incensed by those setbacks, Putin and military commanders committed to a program of radical restructuring and spending.

Perhaps the most important change today is in the caliber of the soldiers themselves. While all men aged 18 to 27 still face a mandatory year of military service, Russia increasingly is attracting volunteers for at least two years and building a culture emphasizing the military as a career.

While conscripts are paid a paltry 2,000 rubles ($31) a month, those signing contracts for longer tours of duty receive 10 times the starting pay and extra privileges. Promotion to sergeant could mean a monthly paycheck of around 40,000 rubles ($620), better than average civilian wages.

Russia's Defense Ministry says contract soldiers, most of them former conscripts who opt to stay, have outnumbered conscripts in the ranks since 2015.

Environment

'Pipeline purgatory' the goal as activists take fight local

By MEENAL VAMBURKAR and JENNIFER A. DLOUHY
BLOOMBERG NEWS

AP

Military veterans and Native American tribal elders come to a stop for a ceremonial prayer during a march to a closed bridge across from the Dakota Access oil pipeline site in Cannon Ball, N.D., Monday, Dec. 5, 2016.

WASHINGTON—For fossil-fuel foes fighting a new generation of U.S. pipelines, Donald Trump's election as president may be somewhat beside the point.

Instead of engaging a federal bureaucracy they believe will line up against them, activists now plan to "double down on the state and local level," according to Jane Kleeb, president of Bold Alliance, a national activist network that's fought the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL project. "The opposition is going to be much more local, much more focused," she said.

Although Trump has promised to speed up federal permits and regulatory review, his influence doesn't extend to local communities or states. That's where activists are working aggressively to get regulators, lawmakers and the courts on their side, Kleeb and others said. Already, they've helped get new laws passed in Georgia and North Carolina limiting the use of eminent domain to seize property for pipelines.

Call it "pipeline purgatory," said Matthew Hoza, an analyst at the Colorado-based consulting firm BTU Analytics LLC. By exploiting local landowner concerns and state permit processes, activists are ensnaring projects "in unending litigation on a state level," making them "not really alive, not really dead," he said.

The network of pipelines now in place for liquids including oil and gasoline stretches 207,800 miles, according to a website sponsored by the Association of Oil Pipe Lines. Builders say new pipelines are needed as locations of key energy sources change, and to replace aging infrastructure. When pipeline capacity fills, drillers are forced to resort to more expensive rail shipments, raising costs for their product. Meanwhile, natural gas can be stranded because pipes are the only delivery option.

It's an argument that has gained some momentum across the border in Canada. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau approved pipeline proposals by Kinder Morgan Inc. and Enbridge Inc. in a decision aimed at balancing environmental protection with expanded market access for oil producers.

Pipelines also can offer local communities an economic gain, according to Alan Armstrong, chief executive officer at Tulsa, Oklahoma-based Williams Partners LP, which owns and operates more than 33,000 miles of U.S. gas-gathering and distribution lines. In May, Armstrong said his company's Constitution Pipeline will aid development in New York and help New England's transition to cleaner natural gas from coal-fired power.

Environmentalists, meanwhile, are playing a long game, aiming to completely change America's energy profile in the future, according to Lena Moffitt, director of the Sierra Club's Dirty Fuels campaign.

"We're in this critical window where renewables are going to be cost competitive in a few years," said Moffitt, who is based in Oakland, Calif. "If we can forestall gas infrastructure being put in the ground and locking in that demand for the next 60 years — if we can forestall that by maybe just five years — the hope is that renewables will come in and be cost competitive in all markets."

The timeline for FERC approval has gotten lengthier. From initial filing to notice of construction, the average processing time is almost 70 days longer than before 2014, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Brandon Barnes in a report.

Delays add costs, as does re-routing. The pushback Moffitt and others describe has already scared off investors, slowed plans and spurred developers to abandon others.

In March, following opposition in Georgia, Kinder Morgan scrapped its Palmetto pipeline, designed to carry gasoline, diesel and ethanol from South Carolina into Florida. The Constitution Pipeline, set to transport natural gas from Pennsylvania to New York, remains in legal limbo as developer Williams Partners fights a state agency's rejection of a water permit almost two years after it was blessed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"It's the new reality of what we deal with as pipeline developers," said Blue Jenkins, executive vice president of EQT Corp., a Pittsburgh-based integrated energy company. "The opponents are very organized, they are very aggressive, and they are very vocal."

To be sure, Trump is likely to make a difference nationally for two pipelines that have long been flash points: TransCanada Corp.'s 1,179-mile Keystone XL project, and the 1,172-mile Dakota Access Pipeline developed by Energy Transfer Partners LP.

President Barack Obama rejected Keystone last year, saying it wouldn't aid the U.S. economy, drop gasoline prices or boost energy security. That followed a seven-year dispute that, at times, turned more on political issues than economic ones. The $3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline was delayed in September after local Native Americans said it will hurt culturally significant sites. Trump has said he'll approve Keystone XL as soon as Jan. 20, his first day in office.

AP

In this May 26, 2016 file photo, U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., right, talks about being one of the first to endorse then Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during the North Dakota Republican National Convention in Bismarck.

Public comments submitted to FERC help indicate which plans are likely to receive the most resistance. The PennEast pipeline, designed to carry gas from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, received more than comments since even if federal regulators ultimately OK it now at least seven months later than planned the same people who flooded FERC with feedback are likely to contact state regulators, BTU's Hoza said.

Activists have "been emboldened by Keystone and the growing number of victories like Constitution," prompting grass-roots efforts nationwide, said the Sierra Club's Moffitt. They're "looking at the legal hooks" that can tie up approvals for years.

Nancy Vann, 69, is among the local activists. Since 2013, the retired attorney has fought Spectra Energy Corp.'s Algonquin Incremental Market project, which runs through her neighborhood near Peekskill, N.Y. She questions its proximity to the Indian Point Energy Center nuclear plant, and disputes its need. As head of the local Safe Energy Rights Group, Vann said she's often in touch with other activists and has helped train foes of the Constitution project on rights of way and land rights.

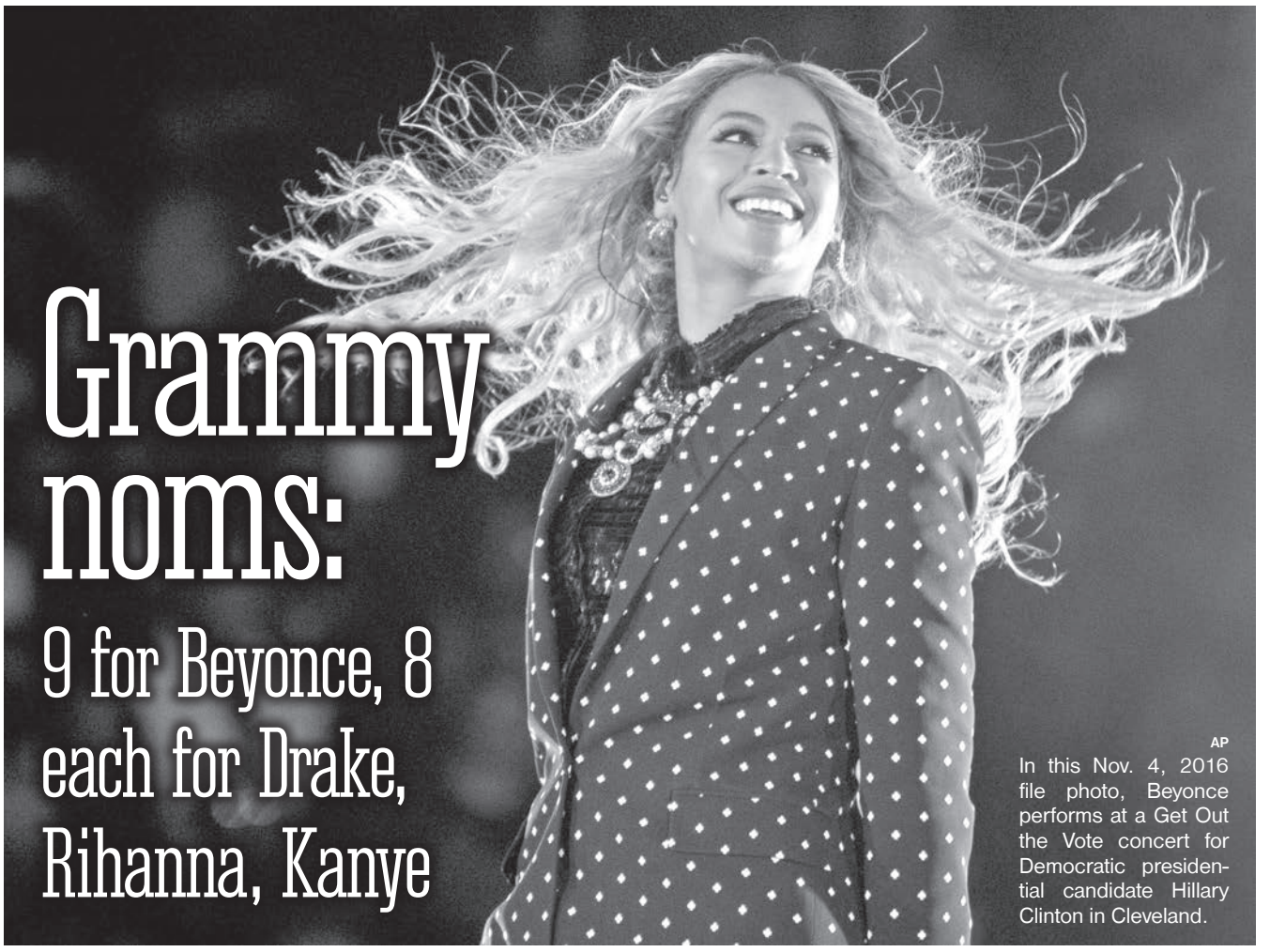
Vann's involvement highlights a key difference now as opposed to the past. Developers are crossing more urban areas, and in places relatively unaccustomed to them. Pipelines may be ubiquitous in Texas and Oklahoma; they are not in Massachusetts and Maine. For now, pipeline operators are dealing with the problem by increasing outreach to local residents, hewing to existing rights of way when possible and favoring small projects.

"Pipelines, like it or not, have been pulled into this broader philosophical debate about climate policy," said Donald Santa, president and chief executive officer of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America. "We have become a theater in that war."

Life & Style

Grammy noms:

9 for Beyonce, 8 each for Drake, Rihanna, Kanye



AP
In this Nov. 4, 2016 file photo, Beyonce performs at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Cleveland.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Grammy Awards are sipping all of Beyonce's lemonade.

The pop star leads the 2017 Grammys with nine nominations, including bids for album of the year with "Lemonade," and song and record of the year with "Formation." The singer, who already has 20 Grammys and is the most nominated woman in Grammy history with 62 nods over the course of her career, is also the first artist to earn nominations in the pop, rock, R&B and rap categories in the same year.

Behind Beyonce are Drake, Rihanna and Kanye West, who scored eight nominations each.

Like Beyonce, Adele is also nominated for album, record and song of the year. For album of the year, «Lemonade» and "25"—which has sold 10 million copies in a year—will compete against Drake›s multi-hit "Views," Justin Bieber›s redemption album "Purpose" and surprise nominee "A Sailor's Guide to Earth,» the third album from respected and rebellious country singer Sturgill Simpson.

Beyonce's "Formation" and Adele›s "Hello" are up against Rihanna and Drake's "Work," twenty one pilots› «Stressed Out» and Lukas Graham's "7 Years" for record of the year. "7 Years" is also up for song of the year—a songwriter›s award—battling Bieber's "Love Yourself," co-written with Ed Sheeran, Mike Posner's "I Took a Pill In Ibiza," as well as Beyonce and Adele's songs.

Beyonce's nine nominations include best rock performance ("Don't Hurt Yourself" with Jack White), pop solo performance ("Hold Up"), rap/sung performance ("Freedom" with Kendrick Lamar) and urban contemporary album ("Lemonade").

"Artists are feeling emboldened and courageous and just wanting to step out of the predictable boundaries of what they have done. Of course, (Beyonce) is the poster child for that," Recording Academy CEO and President Neil Portnow said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Adele, who has five nominations, is up for best pop vocal album ("25') and pop solo performance ("Hello.") The Grammys will be presented in Los Angeles on Feb. 12, 2017.

David Bowie, who died from cancer in January, earned four nominations for his final album "Blackstar," including best rock performance, rock song, alternative music album and engineered album, nonclassical.

'I think this is beyond sort of the sympathy vote, because sometimes you'll see those kinds of things happen just ‹cause people feel sorry about it. But listen to (his) album—it›s quite extraordinary," Portnow said of Bowie.

This year the Recording Academy allowed streaming-only recordings—released on paid-subscription platforms like Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal but not for sale on iTunes—to be eligible for nominations, giving Chance the Rapper a fair chance. The breakout performer scored seven nominations including best new artist, pitting him against country singers Maren Morris and Kelsea Ballerini; singer-rapper Anderson Paak; and pop-EDM duo the Chainsmokers, whose recent hits include "Closer" and "Don't Let Me Down."

Survey: Parents binge on media, say they're good role models

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Parents spend more than nine hours a day with TVs, computers and other screen devices while also giving themselves high marks as role models for their children's media use, according to a survey released Tuesday.

Among all those surveyed—nearly 1,800 parents in the U.S.—daily screen time averaged nine hours and 22 minutes, with the bulk of that, seven hours and 43 minutes, categorized as personal screen time and the other roughly 90 minutes spent on work.

The study also found they were enthusiastic about technology's role in their kids' lives but wary of the risks it may hold, including loss of sleep and online oversharing. Researchers from the nonprofit Common Sense Media group and Northwestern University's Center on Media and Human Development conducted the project.

Two-thirds of those surveyed, 67 percent, said monitoring their children's devices and social media accounts is more important than allowing them privacy.

Another finding: Latino and black parents expressed more concern about their kids' media use (66 and 65 percent, respectively) than white ones (51 percent). Latinos are more diligent in managing it than other parents, checking devices and social media accounts more often.

It was the gap between how much adults use media and what that might mean for their offspring that was particularly striking to James P. Steyer, founder and CEO of Common Sense Media, which helps families and educators assess and use media and technology effectively. The group›s first-ever deep dive on parents› tech habits mirrors its ongoing analysis of those of children and teenagers.

"I found the numbers astounding, the sheer volume of technology used by parents," Steyer said. "There's really a big disconnect between their own behavior and their self-perception, as well as their perception of their kids."

"Yet 78 percent of all parents believe they are good media and technology role models for their children," according to a survey summary.

Matt Damon defends being cast for 'Great Wall'

Damon

BEIJING (AP) — Matt Damon criticized "outrageous" stories in the era of fake news as he responded Tuesday to accusations that his role in the new China-Hollywood co-production "The Great Wall" should have gone to an Asian actor.

Some critics have said Damon's casting as the lead character amounted to "whitewashing," in which Caucasians are chosen for roles that actors of other ethnicities should play.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the American actor said he thinks of the term "whitewashing" as applying to Caucasian actors putting on makeup to appear to be of another race, as was common in the early days of film and television, when racism was overt.

"That whole idea of whitewashing, I take that very seriously," Damon said, using the example of the Irish-American actor Chuck Connors, who played the lead character in the 1962 film "Geronimo," about the famed Apache chief.

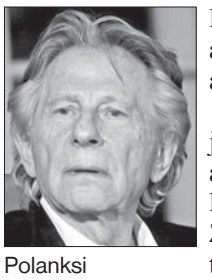
Damon, 46, plays an English mercenary in the upcoming $150 million adventure fantasy about a Chinese army battling monsters, helmed by acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou.

The movie's trailer sparked criticism in the U.S. that a white man had been chosen to play the lead in a film set in China meant to showcase Chinese culture. The furor came amid other accusations of a lack of diversity and opportunities for Asian actors in Hollywood.

Damon questioned whether the critical stories on online news sites based on "a 30-second teaser trailer" would have existed before the era of fake news and headlines designed to make people click on them.

"It suddenly becomes a story because people click on it, versus the traditional ways that a story would get vetted before it would get to that point," said the star of the "Bourne" franchise.

Poland's top court upholds refusal to extradite Polanski



Polanksi

WARSAW, Poland (AP)— Poland's Supreme Court on Tuesday confirmed that the country would refuse to detain and extradite filmmaker Roman Polanski to the U.S.

The ruling upholds the decision of a lower court that was challenged by the justice minister, and closes the matter in Poland.

"Game over," said Jan Olszewski, one of Polanski's lawyers. "The case is definitively closed. We won in a fair struggle. We feel satisfaction."

Polanski, 83, is wanted in the U.S. in a case involving sex with a minor that has haunted him for almost 40 years. He is subject to an Interpol warrant in 188 countries.

He has avoided extradition by traveling only between three countries. He lives in France, where he was born, and also has a home in Switzerland, which in 2011 rejected a U.S. request to extradite him. He has often visited Poland, where he survived the Holocaust, grew up and studied at a film academy.

Poland's three-judge panel rejected a request by Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro to overturn the extradition refusal, and upheld the decision made by a lower court in Krakow in 2015.

Ziobro said Tuesday that he accepted and respected the court's ruling but also insisted that "proceedings concerning the sexual abuse of minors should be enforced consistently regardless of who committed the crime or when."

Polanski pleaded guilty in 1977 to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl during a photo shoot in Los Angeles. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop other charges and sentenced him to prison for a psychiatric evaluation. Polanski was released after 42 days by an evaluator who deemed him mentally sound and unlikely to offend again.

Tracy Morgan, Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld to star in benefit

NEW YORK (AP)—More than two years after narrowly escaping death in a car crash on the New Jersey Turnpike, comedian Tracy Morgan is ready to give back, and he's doing it on a huge stage.

The former "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live" star will be among an all-star group of comedians for a one-day benefit in New York for children facing challenges such as homelessness, extreme poverty, illness and foster care.

"I was once one of those kids," Morgan said this week. "So I've been blessed and very fortunate to have the opportunities that I've had in my life. I just want to give back and this is the perfect way to do that."

Morgan is one of six comedians set to take the stage for the Garden of Dreams Foundation event on March 28 at The Theater at Madison Square Garden. He'll be joined by Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld, John Oliver, Leslie Jones and Sebastian Maniscalco.

Morgan called his fellow performers "comedic heroes" and said he considers it an honor to be working with them: "We're all comrades in comedy. We all know each other. We don't hang out but we all know each other."

AP

In this March 30, 2016, file photo, Tracy Morgan attends FX Networks upfront premiere of "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" at the AMC Empire 25, in New York.

Morgan suffered severe head trauma in June 2014 when a truck slammed into the back of the limo van he was riding in. He made his first public appearance after the accident in June 2015 and made a surprise appearance at the Emmys three months later.

"I don't like to take any day for granted. I like to live each day now. I've always been that way. Not since the accident. But I've always been that way," he said. "I've always given back. God gave me a gift—a gift of laughter—and I share that with the world."

The Garden of Dreams Foundation works with all areas of the Madison Square Garden Co.—including the New York Knicks, the New York Rangers, the New York Liberty, MSG Entertainment and MSG Networks—to brighten the lives of children facing obstacles.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

SeaWorld cutting 320 jobs in restructuring

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. is eliminating 320 jobs across its 12-park company. Company officials said Tuesday in a statement that the goal of the restructuring is to eliminate costs and improve the company's operations. The job eliminations involve both salaried and hourly workers. The company says it will offer severance packages and job-placement assistance to affected workers. SeaWorld's attendance and revenue have suffered in the face of a campaign by animal-rights activists. Earlier this year, the company announced it was ending its orca-breeding program and stopping its traditional killer-whale shows. The company has parks in Florida, Texas, California, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Jimmy Kimmel expecting 2nd child with wife Molly McNearey

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel is going to have a busy 2017. After being announced Monday as the host of next year's Oscars, Kimmel said on his ABC late-night show that his wife Molly McNearey is pregnant with their second child together. Kimmel mentioned the Oscars gig before adding: "My wife is hosting a baby inside her body." Kimmel congratulated himself on his big day of announcements, joking, "I'm hosting the Oscars and I had sex." Kimmel and McNearey have a 2-year-old daughter. Kimmel also has an adult son and daughter from his first marriage.

'Game of Thrones' actor Peter Vaughan dies at 93

LONDON (AP)—Veteran British character actor Peter Vaughan, who played the enigmatic Maester Aemon in "Game of Thrones," has died aged 93. Vaughan's agent Sally Long-Innes says he died Tuesday, surrounded by his family. Vaughan's face—if not his name—was familiar to generations of television viewers in Britain and around the world. His best-known roles included criminal Harry Grout in 1970s prison sitcom "Porridge." Film appearances included "The Naked Runner," opposite Frank Sinatra, and "The French Lieutenant's Woman." Like many British actors, he gained wider fame through HBO's "Game of Thrones." Vaughan played blind scholar Maester Aemon on the hit fantasy series. Born Peter Ohm in the central England county of Shropshire, Vaughan was married first to the late actress Billie Whitelaw, and then to Lillias Walker, who survives him.

Hollywood stars join Oxfam to draw attention to refugees

BOSTON (AP)—Minnie Driver, John Cho and Oliver Platt are among 14 Hollywood stars participating in a new Oxfam America program launched Tuesday that's meant to inspire people to help refugees.

The "I Hear You" campaign launched Tuesday by the Boston-based charity features videos of the actors, many of them close to tears, reading the firsthand stories of refugees aloud.

The refugees express their desires for normalcy, peace, a permanent home, an education and a job. They also talk about the things they miss, including neighborhood cookouts and trips to the amusement park, and articulate the grief they feel for long-lost friends and relatives.

There are currently more than 65 million people in the world who have been forced from their homes by war, disaster, poverty, inequality and the effects of climate change, the most since World War II, according to Oxfam.

"Our house was destroyed. We don't have anything left," Melissa Leo says, telling the story of a Syrian family's matriarch who busies herself cleaning the family's tent and taking care of her grandchildren.

"I won't stop teaching," Cho reads in another, recounting the story of a teacher in a refugee camp who draws letters in the dirt just to make sure the children get an education.

Carolina Herrera says it's an honor to dress Melania Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—While a few designers have made news saying they would not dress the future first lady, Carolina Herrera said she'd be honored if Melania Trump wore one of her outfits.

The famed designer spoke about Trump on the red carpet before she got an honor of her own Monday night from the Women's Leadership Council at Lincoln Center.

Who might dress the wife of President-elect Donald Trump has become an issue after designers Sophie Theallet and Tom Ford, who have both dressed first lady Michelle Obama, said they wouldn't do so for Mrs. Trump, a former model.

But when asked if she would, Herrera said, "Of course I will, as the first lady of this country I will. Of course."

She added, "It is an honor to dress the first ladies of the country and it's something to do for the United States. It's not for myself. It's for the public."

Obama has worn Herrera while in the White House.

Herrera was lauded for her 35 years of fashions at the event by Emmy Rossum and Seth Meyers, among others. Diana Ross sang a mini-concert in Herrera's honor, including hits like "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "I'm Coming Out."

Rossum and Meyers both used wedding dress tales to testify about the greatness of Herrera

The "Shameless" actress said Herrera, whom she called "the chicest women alive," was the first to design for her on the red carpet, and over the years, helped her get out of her comfort zone.

"She persuaded me to embrace increasingly bolder and brighter prints," Rossum said. "She dared me to stand out."

Girlfriend seeks the best way to nudge boy out of dad's bed

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for two years. I moved in with him about a year ago. He has a 9-year-old son, "Todd," who stays with us every other week.

Todd is a great kid, but he has a genetic disorder and still often wets his bed. When it happens, he changes his pajamas and then climbs into bed with us. I don't mind, but I have told my boyfriend we need to start the process of his son not getting in bed with us three to four times a week.

Because I know it's going to be a process that is going to take time, I'm trying to get it started now. I really don't want an 11- or 12-year-old sleeping in our bed. How should I get this process started without nagging my boyfriend?

GREAT KID, BUT ...

DEAR GREAT KID, BUT ...: You have a point. Todd is a little too old to be climbing into bed with the two of you. What needs to be addressed—with the boy's pediatrician and possibly a urologist—is the issue of the bedwetting. After that's been resolved, suggest that your boyfriend have a talk with Todd and explain that he's old enough to sleep in his own bed.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a single, 55-year-old man. During the last year, I have felt lost. My mother, my last close relative, passed away. My brother and sister died years ago, as did my father. We were a very close family. Now I am an orphan!

I don't have children and I'm not sure what I need to do. I'm in the process of selling the family home/office where I worked for the last 30 years, but I feel guilty about it. There's so much stuff to sort through—both business and personal—that I don't know where to start. I'm overwhelmed and having so many anxiety attacks I can't get the things done that I need to.

When I sell this place, I know I'm going to be devastated. I have been suffering with depression for more than 20 years, but now I seem to have hit bottom. My business is failing. I have a couple of friends, but they have their own families and problems. This is affecting my physical and mental health. How can I get past it? I'm not a religious person.

ALONE AND SAD

DEAR ALONE AND SAD: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. Grief after the death of a loved one is a normal emotion, and you might find comfort by joining a grief support group. This would not only give you a safe place to talk about your feelings, but also help you to feel less isolated.

If you haven't already done so, schedule an appointment with the physician who has been treating your chronic depression (assuming it has been treated) and ask to have your medications reviewed. If you have not received treatment, tell your doctor what has been going on and ask for a referral to a licensed therapist who works with a psychiatrist who can prescribe something appropriate.

And remember that while selling the house/office is closing a chapter in your life, it is also signaling the beginning of a new one. It may give you the renewed energy—as well as the financial means—to salvage your business or start one. Please know I wish you a happy future.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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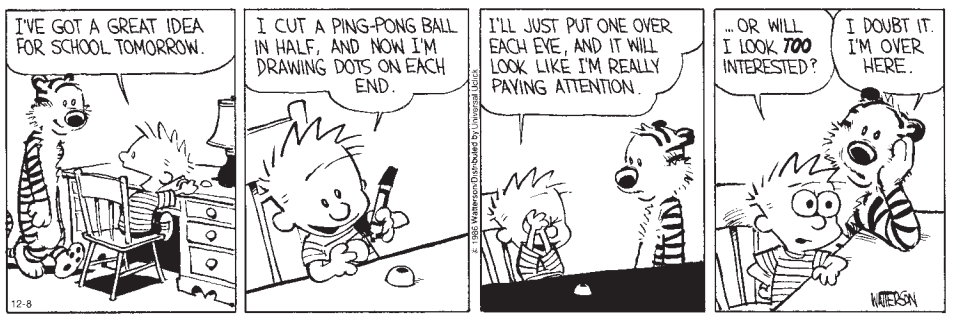
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW.
I CUT A PING-PONG BALL IN HALF, AND NOW I'M DRAWING DOTS ON EACH END.
I'LL JUST PUT ONE OVER EACH EYE, AND IT WILL LOOK LIKE I'M REALLY PAYING ATTENTION.
...OR WILL I LOOK TOO INTERESTED?
I DOUBT IT. I'M OVER HERE.
12-8
WATTERSON

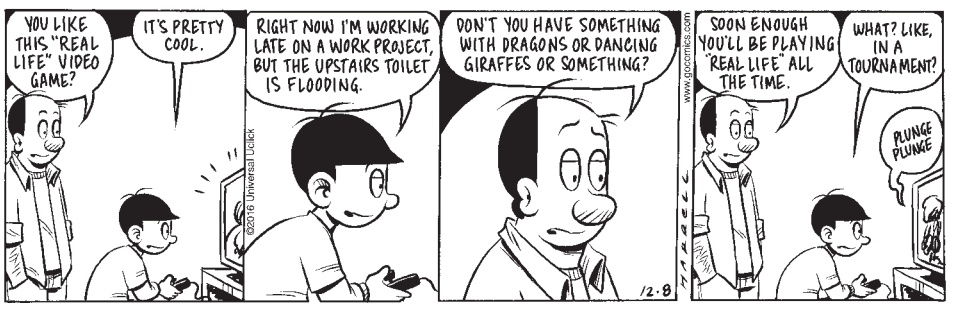
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I NEED TO GET SOMETHING FOR LIZ. SHE LOVES ANIMALS... LET'S LOOK HERE
CLICK
OOPS
I'LL NEED YOU TO SIGN FOR THE HYENA, MA'AM
JIM DAVIS 12-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU LIKE THIS "REAL LIFE" VIDEO GAME?
IT'S PRETTY COOL.
RIGHT NOW I'M WORKING LATE ON A WORK PROJECT, BUT THE UPSTAIRS TOILET IS FLOODING.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING WITH DRAGONS OR DANCING GIRAFFES OR SOMETHING?
SOON ENOUGH YOU'LL BE PLAYING "REAL LIFE" ALL THE TIME.
WHAT? LIKE, IN A TOURNAMENT?
PLUNGE PLUNGE
12-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
YOU HARDLY EVER COME OVER TO VISIT. I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE FOREVER, YOU KNOW. AND WHEN I'M GONE...
MOM, JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO HAVE A GUILT-FREE DESSERT!
12/8

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Now, on a memo
5 Mafia boss
8 Smile broadly
12 Iwo —
13 Equi-
14 Moth variety
15 Latin love
16 Roast beef au —
17 Apple tablet
18 Gilbert and Sullivan emperor
20 Accompanying
22 High-risk area
26 Kentucky Derby prize
29 Sturdy tree
30 Decay
31 Luau strings
32 Mel of baseball
33 "— Las Vegas"
34 Right angle
35 Sch. URL ender
36 Car sticker
37 Old diaper fasteners
40 Tousle
41 Italian port
45 Spill the beans
47 Blue
49 Green land
50 BMW rival
51 Yalie
52 Actress Russo
53 Writer James
54 Pro vote
55 Took to court

DOWN
1 In — (stuck)
2 — Valley, Calif.
3 Out of control
4 Processions
5 Mustard city
6 Buckeyes' sch.
7 "Piece of cake"
8 Barrage
9 Elated
10 Literary collection
11 Frenzied
19 "— Kapital"
21 Annoy
23 Arose
24 Bright star
25 And others (Lat.)
26 Regrets
27 Tex. neighbor
28 Like some billionaires
32 Homeric work
33 Evening prayers
35 UFO crew
36 "CSI" evidence
38 Jazzman Blake
39 Agra's land
42 Stead
43 Sea eagle
44 Feeder filler
45 Sheep's cry
46 Schlep
48 Hearty brew

Solution time: 25 mins.

		E	L	F			A	L	S			
	A	L	I	A		B	R	O	N	C		
I	B	S	E	N		R	E	T	O	O	L	
C	L	I	N	T	E	A	S	T	W	O	O	D
E	Y	E		A	L	I	T	O		I	D	O
			W	I	L	D			K	N	E	W
	S	C	A	L	E		F	E	I	G	N	
A	H	O	Y			D	O	N	A			
H	I	M		I	D	I	O	T		G	P	A
A	P	E	R	F	E	C	T	W	O	R	L	D
	S	T	E	E	L	E		I	V	I	E	D
		H	E	E	L	S		N	A	P	A	
		F	L	A				E	L	S		

Yesterday's answer 12-8

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21			■	■
■	■	■	22			23					24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38				39			■	■	■
■	■	40				■	41			42	43	44
45	46			■	47	48		■	49			
50				■	51			■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicki Minaj, 32; Dominic Monaghan, 40; Teri Hatcher, 52; James Galway, 77.

Happy Birthday: Step up and be noticed. Don't give in to anyone making noise about something you don't agree with. You can bring about valuable changes both personally and professionally if you take action and offer suggestions. Grow your brand based on what you have to contribute and you will get the support you need to advance. Your numbers are 1, 5, 16, 27, 30, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotions will surface and are best channeled into the activities you enjoy. Focus on interacting with the people around you who contribute to your happiness. A commitment can be made, and plans with someone special put into play. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Listen and decide what's feasible before you pursue something new. Question whatever you don't understand and assess how it will benefit you or those you are trying to help. Knowledge is power and will help you make the best choice. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take action and do your best to turn your ideas and plans into a reality. You'll have the chance to interact with people who share your concerns, so don't take on the task of implementing changes all by yourself. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't jump to conclusions or let your emotions take over when discussing important matters with partners or other influential people in your life. Refrain from overspending or taking on too much. Invest in learning and exploring your options. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can take control and put your plans into motion. Your ability to see through the nonsense that is going on around you will give you the ammunition to persuade others to follow your lead. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Nothing will be as it appears. Use your intuition to weed out any negativity that may lead you down the wrong path. Structure, discipline and hard work will help you bring about positive changes at home and with your personal finances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Accept the inevitable and get on with your day. If someone gives you a hard time, walk away and engage in the activities you enjoy. Taking on a physical challenge will be exhilarating. Romance is highlighted and will brighten your day. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotions will surface if what you want isn't what you receive. Look for a way to improve your odds using intelligence instead of aggression. Children will offer unusual insight into better ways to deal with controversy. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Personal improvements will make you feel and look good. Getting back to the people and pastimes that brought you joy will help you resolve unsettling issues, allowing you to move forward. Romance is encouraged and will improve your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stay on track and refuse to let anyone put words in your mouth or bully you to do things you don't want to do. Travel and communication are best kept to a minimum. Let emotions level out before you commit to anything. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A little extra effort will go a long way. Rework your past ideas to fit your current situations or plans. Your insight and ability to adapt to whatever comes your way are important factors in why you are successful. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll have trouble seeing things clearly. Confide in someone you trust to maintain integrity and honesty in helping you sort through the dilemmas you face. A clear view will be necessary if you want to make a good choice. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are assertive and astute. You are charming and helpful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		2			6		
			4		7	2		1
5	1							
	5		1		8		9	2
8	6		5		9		3	
							2	8
7		5	8		6			
		9			2		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	1	3	9	5	7	2	6
5	3	6	7	1	2	9	4	8
9	2	7	4	6	8	1	5	3
7	6	8	5	4	1	3	9	2
3	1	9	2	8	6	5	7	4
2	5	4	9	7	3	8	6	1
6	4	5	1	3	9	2	8	7
8	9	3	6	2	7	4	1	5
1	7	2	8	5	4	6	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POPSICLES Solution: 6 letters

T	W	C	T	L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T	G	F	G
U	A	O	M	S	R	O	V	A	L	F	I	R	U	P
N	T	M	L	A	I	A	T	L	E	M	U	A	D	U
O	E	Ⓓ	U	L	N	O	E	U	L	B	R	P	G	R
C	R	Ⓔ	N	G	E	G	M	P	B	G	F	E	E	P
O	A	Ⓡ	O	H	N	Y	O	G	U	R	T	Z	T	L
C	N	E	S	J	E	A	R	M	O	E	E	M	A	E
O	A	A	R	S	W	E	E	T	D	E	S	A	N	E
R	N	S	E	W	O	L	F	B	R	N	O	E	A	D
N	A	S	P	K	N	A	R	F	T	M	T	R	R	A
S	B	O	P	E	G	N	A	R	O	S	C	C	G	N
Y	R	R	E	B	K	C	A	L	B	C	U	E	E	O
R	O	T	S	O	L	I	D	R	I	P	R	C	M	M
U	W	E	M	I	L	N	E	Z	O	R	F	I	O	E
P	N	D	R	Y	E	L	P	P	A	E	N	I	P	L

© 2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/8

Assorted, Banana, Bean Gum, Blackberry, Blue, Brown, Coconut, Coffee, Corn Syrup, Double, Drip, Epperson, Flavors, Frank, Freezer, Frozen, Fructose, Fruit, Fudge, Grape, Green, Guar Gum, Ice Cream, Joe, Lemonade, Lime, Locust, Lowe, Mango, Melt, Moist, Mold, Orange, Pear, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Purple, Red, Solid, Sweet, Tropical, Water, Yellow, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Aces

Treasuries 13 through 26 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DIETITIAN

- Must hold a baccalaureate or advance degree in food and nutrition or dietetics.
- Has at least one year experience in clinical nutrition.
- Good interpersonal/communication skills.
- Must comply with the law and regulations of the state dietary or nutritional licensing body.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit resume/application will be December 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2901 extension 128.

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We are looking for a dynamic person
to fill a position as

Accounting Supervisor
for an established company with offices in Guam and Saipan.
Position is in Saipan, CNMI.

General Requirements
The Accounting Supervisor is responsible to assist the CFO in all areas of financial operations. Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or equivalent. Must also have 5+ yrs supervisory experience.

Please send resume to jwssaipan@pticom.com or fax to (670) 235-5573.

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www.guam.wish.org

"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

Job Announcement for Position of Passenger Service Staff

Eastar Jet Co., Ltd. at Saipan International Airport (SPN) will have opening for **one (1) Passenger Service Staff** beginning December 15, 2016. The position requires a College Degree of any major, with or without experience, can speak Korean and English languages. The applicant will be responsible for the recruitment of U.S. citizen workers. The closing date for applications is December 9, 2016. Interested applicants must send their resume to: sn23479@gmail.com. Please contact me should you require any clarifications.

Eastar Jet Co.,Ltd
SENA LEE, Regional Manager, SAIPAN,
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Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cepeda, Ma Lihua Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0217
vs.	)	
Cepeda, Vicente Joaquin Respondent,	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501365, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISALNDS 96950
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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANA FISHING, INC.	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0068**
Plaintiff	:	
-v-	:	
AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO,	:	
Defendant.	:	

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the sale of all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the motor vessel Blue Marlin I, together with her tackle and equipment, now scheduled for Friday, December 9, 2016, at 1:30p.m., is hereby postponed. A Second Amended Notice of Sale will be issued in due course.

DATED: December 7, 2016

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROMEO C. VILLA Petitioner, Versus **EVA ALQUEZA VILLA** Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0589 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitinoer's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:
Dated this 6th day of December, 2016.

/s/ **Deputy of Court**
Superior Court

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Spurs move to 13-0 on the road with win over Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points and the San Antonio Spurs improved to 13-0 on the road this season with a 105-91 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday night.

Leonard hit 11 of 15 shots after not scoring at all in the first quarter and Patty Mills scored 15 points off the bench for the Spurs (18-4), who played without Tony Parker after he bruised his left knee against Milwaukee on Wednesday night. San Antonio overcame a slow start to shoot 52.7 percent.

The Spurs moved past the 1969-70 New York Knicks to take sole possession of the second-best road start to begin a season in NBA history. The Golden State Warriors started 14-0 last year.

Zach LaVine scored 25 points for the Timberwolves. Karl-Anthony Towns had 11 points and 14 rebounds, but shot just 3 of 16.

With seven new faces on the roster and Tim Duncan no longer there, it's been an adjustment for the Spurs this year. They haven't been their usual precise selves, but here they are with the second-best record in the league, tied in the win column with the Warriors (18-3).

The Timberwolves erased a seven-point deficit with less than a minute to play to beat Charlotte on Saturday night, but Leonard buried a pair of 3-pointers to end the threat Tuesday.

AP

San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard (2) works against Minnesota Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins (22) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, in Minneapolis.

Knicks 114, Heat 103

In Miami, Carmelo Anthony matched a season high with 35 points, and New York beat injury-ravaged Miami for its fourth straight victory.

Kristaps Porzingis had 14 points and 12 rebounds for New York, which is three games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2012-13 season. The Knicks lost Derrick Rose to back spasms in the third quarter.

Goran Dragic scored 29 points and Hassan Whiteside finished with 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat, who fell to 2-8 at home.

The teams were tied at 68 late in the third quarter, when the Knicks went on a 27-13 run over the next eight minutes to take control. Anthony finished 13 for 27 from the field, and Porzingis and Joakim Noah combined for 22 rebounds.

Magic 124, Wizards 116

In Washington, Elfrid Payton scored 22 of his career-high 25 points in the first half and Orlando overcame John Wall's 52-point performance to beat Washington.

Wall had the highest-scoring game of his career and kept Washington in it with 33 points in the second half as the Wizards cut the lead below 10 in the fourth quarter. The guard made 18 of 31 from the field and added eight assists.

Payton went 8 for 8 from the field and 3 for 3 from the line off the bench in that first half, nearly matching his previous season best of 23 points in the first two quarters alone. Payton finished 9 for 12 and handed out nine assists.

Orlando won its third straight game and its 124 points were a season high.

Pistons 102, Bulls 91

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Tobias Harris scored 22 points and Detroit beat Chicago.

Andre Drummond added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who won for the fourth time in five games.

Jimmy Butler scored 32 points and Dwyane Wade added 19 points and seven assists for Chicago, which lost its third straight. The Bulls were playing their fourth game in five nights and struggled in the fourth quarter.

Rajon Rondo had 10 points in his return to the Chicago lineup.

Grizzlies 96, 76ers 91

In Memphis, Tenn., Marc Gasol had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and Memphis finally put away short-handed Philadelphia.

Memphis scored the game's final seven points to erase Philadelphia's lead with less than 2 minutes left, sending the Sixers to their eighth straight loss.

JaMychal Green had 13 points and 10 rebounds, including a pair of free throws with 4 seconds left to seal the Grizzlies' fourth straight win and 10th in the last 13.

Ersan Ilyasova had season bests of 23 points and 17 rebounds for Philadelphia. Dario Saric scored 17 points, while Nik Stauskas added 12 points, despite missing seven of his eight shots from outside the arc.

The Sixers led 91-89 with 1:57 remaining, but Zach Randolph, who had 12 points and 14 rebounds, scored inside and Memphis made enough free throws in the closing minutes.

Jazz 112, Suns 105

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 28 points and Utah held on to beat Phoenix for its seventh victory in eight games.

Rudy Gobert scored a career-high 22 points and had 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for the Jazz, who recovered after the Suns erased their big lead to tie it at 103.

Hayward had 11 third-quarter points to reach 20-plus points for the ninth consecutive game — the first Jazz player to do so since Carlos Boozer in 2007-08.

The Jazz sprinted out to a 25-10 lead thanks to an 8-0 run and never trailed. They led 65-45 at halftime after Hayward's pull-up 3-pointer highlighted a half-closing 11-2 stretch. The 65 points matched a Jazz season high for a half.

Devin Booker scored 21 points for the Suns.

Russell Westbrook crafting 1 of NBA's greatest seasons

ATLANTA (AP)—Russell Westbrook floated off the man he was covering, anticipated the pass into the lane and slipped back to pick it off.

Then he sped off the other way, with only a single defender able to get back and Victor Oladipo serving as wingman. At about the 3-point line, Westbrook whipped a bounce pass toward his teammate, who took it from there for a layup.

With that, Westbrook earned his 10th assist and another triple-double.

It wasn't even midway through the third quarter.

"He can do so many different things," Atlanta's Thabo Sefolosha marveled after Monday night's 102-99 loss to Westbrook and the Thunder. "It's definitely mind-blowing. And the way he does it. He's everywhere."

Seems that way, for sure.

The Oklahoma City star is working on one of the greatest seasons in NBA history, having already piled up 11 triple-doubles in the Thunder's first 22 games.

He's had six in a row, the league's longest such streak since Michael Jordan had seven straight in 1989. More impressively, Westbrook is averaging 31 points, 11.3 assists and 10.9 rebounds through more than a quarter of the season.

The last player to average a triple-double for an entire season was Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson in 1961-62. He finished at 30.8 points, 12.5 rebounds and 11.4 assists.

"Obviously, the league hasn't seen something like this in a long, long time," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said.

To give it a bit more perspective, Jordan's streak came during a season in which he finished with 15 triple-doubles.

Westbrook is only four off that total with 50 games still to go.

No wonder he heard chants of "MVP! MVP!"—even while playing on the road.

"It's crazy, man," Westbrook said. "It's definitely catching me off guard."

He got off to a slow start offensively against the slumping Hawks, missing seven of his first eight shots. But Westbrook was helping his team in other ways—crashing the boards and looking for the open man, giving him seven rebounds and eight assists by halftime.

"It's unbelievable," teammate Anthony Morrow said. "He's getting it within the game. It's not like he's forcing it. It's something I've never seen before. It's a blessing for all of us to be a part of that type of greatness."

Of course, it was just a matter of time before Westbrook found his shooting range.

That came in third quarter, when he suddenly got hot.

Westbrook made five of his last seven attempts in the period, swishing three of them from outside the 3-point arc. He had 16 points in the third, outscoring the Hawks all by himself to stretch Oklahoma City's one-point halftime lead to a 14-point cushion heading to the final quarter.

Atlanta rallied down the stretch, but Westbrook helped preserve the victory. He finished with a line that is becoming all too familiar: 32 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, not to mention a steal and a block.

"It's just picking your spots," he said nonchalantly. "The game will tell you what to do. When it's time to be aggressive, that's what it's time for. That's what I try to do."

When Kevin Durant bolted for Golden State, Westbrook knew he'd have to take on more of the load in Oklahoma City. He seems to have put the entire franchise on his back, prodding and cajoling his teammates to come along for the ride. The Thunder have won all six games during his triple-double streak, climbing to first place in the Northwest Division.

"He does a great job of getting his teammates involved," Atlanta's Tim Hardaway Jr. said. "In the first half, you could see it. He gets on 'em when they don't make the pass, when they don't make plays. But they love that about him. You can see that. They take it to heart."

Perhaps the only question is whether Westbrook can maintain this sort of pace and intensity for an entire season.

At least he's got a few days to rest up.

The Thunder are off until Friday, when they host the Houston Rockets.

"I get satisfaction from winning," Westbrook said, shrugging off his individual achievements. "That's the most important part to me. My guys do an amazing job of working with what I give them and making my job easy."

Red Sox get ace Chris Sale from White Sox for hefty package

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—No surprise that Chris Sale got traded, it was time to go. The real shocker? That the Boston Red Sox swooped in to snag him.

The reloading Red Sox pulled off the biggest deal yet at the winter meetings, acquiring the dominant ace from the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday for a hefty package of four prospects.

"The ability to get a Chris Sale doesn't come along very often," Boston president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said.

Sale joins an already talented rotation with the AL East champions, now pitching alongside 2016 AL Young Award winner Rick Porcello, former winner David Price and knuckleballer Steven Wright. He leaves behind a shredded reputation in Chicago, suspended by the team last summer after he flew into a rage and cut up retro uniforms that club was supposed to wear.

The 27-year-old Sale has been an All-Star in each of the last five seasons, finishing high in Cy Young Award voting every time, but has never played in the postseason. To get him, Boston traded four minor leaguers: high-priced third baseman Yoan Moncada, considered by many the top young talent in baseball, along with pitchers Michael Kopech and Victor Diaz, and outfielder Luis Basabe.

Sale was a top trade target across the majors this offseason, and the Washington Nationals seemed to be the favorites to land him this week.

"Ultimately, it came down to two in the end, and both of them were aggressive and presented us with solid packages that we had to choose between," White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said.

AP

In this Oct. 2, 2016, file photo, Chicago White Sox starter Chris Sale delivers a pitch during a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Chicago.

Said Nationals GM Mike Rizzo: "We put a lot of effort into it and thought we made a good, valiant effort ... and we fell short."

Dombrowski said the Red Sox had talked on-and-off to Chicago about Sale over the years, but "we really didn't have any ongoing conversations." The sides began speaking in earnest on Friday and "it accelerated," he said.

To New York Mets manager Terry Collins, it was a great deal - for him, being division rivals of the NL East champion Nationals.

"I really thought for sure he was going to end up in Washington. I really did," Collins said. "We dodged a bullet."

A few hours earlier, Boston got prime setup man Tyler Thornburg from Milwaukee. After that deal was announced, Dombrowski said, "We're trying to win now, as you can see."

Few knew then exactly how hard the man fittingly wearing bright red socks was trying.

Sale was 17-10 with a 3.34 ERA and 233 strikeouts this year, a season after he led the majors by fanning 274. He also comes with his benefit: a team-favorable contract that calls for a $12 million salary next year and includes club options for 2018 at $12.5 million and 2019 at $15 million.

Given his financial status, Sale "was controllable and projected to be damn good going forward, and it's tough to give that up," Hahn said.

"At the same time, we have to be realistic about where we are and the likelihood of, with this current group, getting to where we want to be. In the end we had to make the tough decision to let go of someone as valuable as Chris in order to pull back what we feel is a premium package that's going to help put us in a better position long term," he said.

Drafted by the White Sox in 2010, Sale became a starter in 2012 and zoomed into a star.

"In between the lines, he pitches with an edge," Red Sox manager John Farrell observed. "His numbers and performance speak for themselves, but I think there is maybe a persona that he projects certainly across the field."

This year, the relationship between Sale and the White Sox became extremely strained.

Sale was suspended for five days without pay for destroying collared 1976-style uniforms the team was scheduled to wear July 23, saying they were uncomfortable. He lost $250,000 of his $9.15 million salary and also was fined about $12,700 - the cost of the tattered jerseys. He blamed manager Robin Ventura for not defending his players.

During spring training, Sale was quite vocal about the decision to limit the time teammate Adam LaRoche's son was allowed in the clubhouse. That flap led to hard feelings all around, along with LaRoche's retirement.

The White Sox went 78-84, and haven't made the playoffs since 2008.

Boston went 93-69, then got swept by Cleveland in the AL Division Series and finish out the career of retiring slugger David Ortiz.

The Red Sox signed Moncada in March 2015 for a $31.5 million bonus, the largest ever for an amateur player, and paid an additional $31.5 million in tax. For that $63 million, the 21-year-old played a total of eight games in the majors, all this season, and batted .211 with one RBI. He hit .294 with 15 homers in the mid-minors.

The 20-year-old Kopech was the 33rd overall pick in the 2014 amateur draft. The right throws hard and went 4-1 with a 2.08 as a starter in Class A.

Basabe, also 20, hit .264 with 53 RBIs in Class A. Diaz, a 22-year-old righty, went 2-5 with a 3.88 ERA in relief in Class A.

Yankees to retire Jeter's No 2 on May 14, last single digit

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter's No. 2 is being retired, the last of the New York Yankees' single digits.

The Yankees said Tuesday the number will be retired on May 14 before a Mother's Day game against Houston, and a plaque in his honor will be unveiled in Monument Park during the ceremony.

Jeter's number is the 21st retired by the team. He won five World Series titles and was a 14-time All-Star during a 20-season career that ended in 2014 and he is sixth in career hits with 3,465.

Jeter set Yankees records for hits, games (2,747), at-bats (11,195), doubles (544) and stolen bases (358).

New York previously retired No. 1 (Billy Martin, 1986), No. 3 (Babe Ruth, 1948), No. 4 (Lou Gehrig, 1939), No. 5 (Joe DiMaggio, 1952), No. 6 (Joe Torre, 2014), No. 7 (Mickey Mantle, 1969), No. 8 (Yogi Berra and Bill Dickey, 1972), No. 9 (Roger Maris, 1984), No. 10 (Phil Rizzuto, 1985), No. 15 (Thurman Munson, 1979), No. 16 (Whitey Ford, 1974), No. 20 (Jorge Posada, 2015), No. 23 (Don Mattingly, 1997), No. 32 (Elston Howard, 1984), No. 37 (Casey Stengel, 1970), No. 42 (Mariano Rivera, 2013), No. 44 (Reggie Jackson, 1993), No. 46 (Andy Pettitte, 2015), No. 49 (Ron Guidry, 2003) and No. 51 (Bernie Williams, 2015).

In addition, Jackie Robinson's No. 42 was retired throughout the major leagues in 1997.

Benoit, Phillies finalize $7.M, 1-year contract

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—Reliever Joaquin Benoit and the Philadelphia Phillies finalized a $7.5 million, one-year contract, part of the team's efforts to rebuild its bullpen.

"It's important in a bullpen to have different styles of pitchers, right?" Philadelphia general manager Matt Klentak said Tuesday at the winter meetings. "Ideally, you'd have some righties and some lefties and some more experienced players blended with some younger players, and fastballs and sliders and curveballs."

Benoit, a 39-year-old righthander, has had an ERA under 3.00 for six of the past seven years. He was 3-1 with a 2.81 ERA last season, including a 0.38 ERA after the Toronto Blue Jays acquired him from Seattle in July for reliever Drew Storen. Benoit averaged 9.75 strikeouts per nine innings.

Over the last seven seasons, Benoit has a 0.98 WHIP (walks and hits per inning), trailing only Kenley Jansen (0.89) and Craig Kimbrel (0.95) around the majors in that span. Benoit has 51 saves in 712 big league games.

The deal comes about a month after the Phillies acquired righty reliever Pat Neshek in a trade with the Houston Astros and exercised a club option for $6.5 million in 2017 for him.

The 36-year-old Neshek was 2-2 with a 3.06 ERA in 60 relief appearances with Houston last season, holding right-handed hitters to a .172 average and compiling 43 strikeouts in 47 innings.

"We don't have a premier closer, which we'd love to have. But last year we didn't either. ... Somebody is going to be capable of doing that," Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said. "What we have now is a deeper bullpen, with more experience, better pitchers."

Last season, the Phillies were 14-3 in one-run games as of May 15, then went only 14-20 the rest of the way in such contests, along the way to finishing 71-91 and in fourth place in the NL East.

"I feel now, with the addition of Benoit and Neshek, we got better for even the fifth and the sixth, and if (Jeanmar) Gomez ends up closing, or he's down in the fifth or sixth, depending on how it all ends up, were obviously deeper and better because of that," Mackanin said. "We're going to have a lot of flexibility with that."

Man arrested in ex-NFL player's death; sheriff defends probe

HARVEY, La. (AP) — The Louisiana man who fatally shot ex-NFL player Joe McKnight during a road rage dispute was jailed on a manslaughter charge as a sheriff angrily defended the investigation Tuesday, saying authorities "strategically" waited for days to make the arrest because they needed to find independent witnesses.

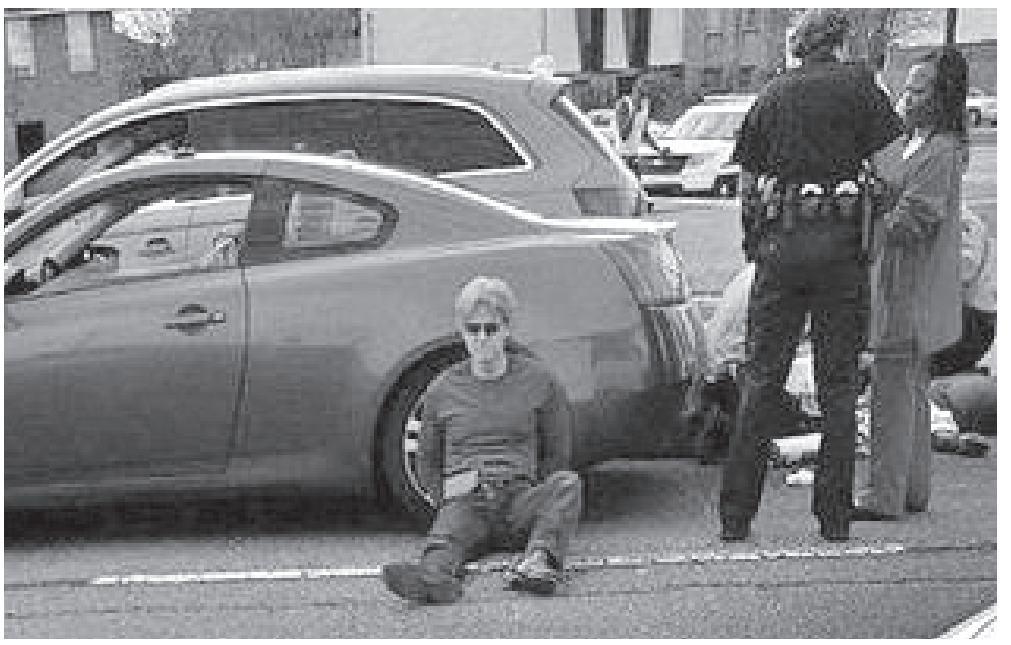
Ronald Gasser, 54, was initially questioned after the shooting last Thursday but he was released without being charged, drawing heated criticism from protesters who said race played a role in the investigation. Gasser, who is white, was arrested late Monday. McKnight was black.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand pounded on a podium during a news conference explaining the investigation.

"This isn't about race. Not a single witness has said ... one racial slur was uttered," the sheriff said.

The case comes at a time of intense scrutiny in the African-American community about the shootings of black men, in particular by police. While this case doesn't involve a police shooting, it has flared temperatures and drawn protests at the sheriff's department.

It's not clear whether Gasser has an attorney. Attempts to reach Gasser's family were unsuccessful Tuesday. McKnight's grandmother, Barbara Lundy Franklin, did not want to talk about the arrest, except to say: "God is going to bring us justice and god is going bring us peace."



AP
In this image taken Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, and provided by Marie Turner, Ronald Gasser sits next to his car shortly after he shot ex-NFL football player Joe McKnight at Behrman Highway and Holmes Blvd., in the New Orleans suburb of Terrytown, La.

The sheriff said the dispute between the men started on a bridge and proceeded into a New Orleans suburb, with both men driving erratically and yelling at each other. Eventually, the cars came to a stop and McKnight confronted Gasser, who was still seated in his car, the sheriff said. Gasser pulled out a gun and shot McKnight three times, killing him. When deputies arrived, the sheriff said Gasser handed them his gun and said he shot McKnight, 28.

The sheriff said McKnight had a gun in his vehicle but no evidence suggested he insinuated anything about it. It was his stepfather's gun, and his stepfather's vehicle, the sheriff said.

During the news conference, the sheriff read aloud some of the derogatory remarks about the investigation, including racially charged comments.

"We have sometimes unrealistic expectations of how these things work ... you don't just run out and start slapping cuffs on people," Normand said.

He noted that on Thursday, Gasser gave authorities a statement that included him being fearful and defending himself, saying that McKnight had made threatening comments. On Thursday evening, authorities had only been able to interview six witnesses, none of whom had seen the shooting. One person they talked to lied to authorities about what happened, the sheriff said.

Normand said had an arrest been made Thursday, he was certain people would be afraid to come forward. Instead, authorities found more than 250 people they wanted to talk to by identifying license plates in the area at the time, and conducted more than 160 interviews. The sheriff said several witnesses made comments contradicting Gasser's statements and were the key to making the arrest.

He also pointed out that Gasser didn't ask for an attorney but instead sat with authorities for over ten hours of interviews in the days after the shooting and gave permission for them to search his home.

Normand also pushed back against questions about whether he understood the fear that a shooting like this had brought about among some in the black community.

"Let's not try to make this out to be something that it is not. What we had were two adult males engaged in unacceptable behavior that did not understand how to deal with conflict resolution," he said.

The sheriff did not want to go into details about why he felt Gasser should be arrested even though the state has a version of the "Stand Your Ground" law.

Louisiana's law holds that people don't have a duty to retreat and can "meet force with force" if they reasonably believe that using deadly force is necessary. Law experts say it's not a blanket excuse.

"When you use lethal force, it's got to be proportional," said Ken Levy, an associate professor who teaches criminal law at LSU Law Center. "And the only way it's proportional is if McKnight was threatening serious bodily injury or death."

McKnight played three seasons for the New York Jets and one with the Kansas City Chiefs.

STRIKE

From Page 28

medical issues and those who are abused and children that are being bullied. This is what I fight for.... not for the belt. I care less for the materialistic hardware," the Trench Tech fighter added.

Since he had fully recovered from the injury he suffered just a few weeks before he was supposed to collide against Wusstig, Iakopo went back to business, training hard for the title fight. He also joined last month's Art of War 11: Submission Grappling/BJJ Tournament to polish his skills.

"I've been doing a lot of cardio and conditioning. I am also working on my ground and stand up (techniques)," said Iakopo, who is eyeing to knock out his Guam foe in the first round.

"I am looking forward to giving this guy a fight. I know what I'm going to do to him, and that is to just give him a beating he'll never forget… that he will always remember me for the rest of his life," he added.

The bout against Wusstig will be Iakopo's first in the octagon cage (in the CNMI) after his appearance in Rites of Passage 4: The Uproar in February 2008. Iakopo won in ROP 4, stopping Arnold Balbin via rear-naked choke just 49 seconds into the first round.

Wusstig, on the other hand, will be seeing action in his 16th fight and his fourth Trench Warz event. The Spike 22 standout holds a 5-10 win-loss record and 1-2 in Trench Warz. He lost his recent Trench Warz fight (18) when he was knocked out by Roman Alvarez at the 26-second mark of Round 1. Wusstig also dropped his last match (Real Fight Championship 5 in June 2016) when his Japanese foe Daisuke Hoshino won via unanimous decision.

The Wusstig-Iakopo title clash is one of the 13 MMA bouts slated in tomorrow's Trench Warz 20, while there is only one kickboxing match in the weekend tournament.

The lone K1 tiff will feature Vince "The Clinch" Masga against Derrick "El Peligro Rangamar. The 12 other MMA bouts are as follows: Jesse Mesa vs Andres Camacho at 125 lbs; Jadrien Camacho vs Franklin Santos at 120 lbs; Bradlee Manalo vs Atrion Norita at 130 lbs; Justin Quichocho vs Jay "Tabi" Muna at 130 lbs; Jeffery Garcia vs Torsten Rosser at the 155 lbs; John Tudela vs Kier Agda at 170-175 lbs; Joseph Camacho vs K.J. Villagomez at 135 lbs; Nick Cruz vs Joey Boy Crisostomo Jr. at 145 lbs; Juan Lizama vs Andrew Sablan at 135 lbs; Vince Campos vs Enrique Torres at 220 lbs; and Pinky Laniyo vs Peter Miyasaki. Larry "The Pain" Naputi is also competing this weekend, but his opponent in the 150-lb catch weight will be announced later. The fight card is tentative.

BLUE

From Page 28

remained consistent on both ends of the court, distributing the wealth and forcing 8th Division to rush the ball, commit errors, and pull up for hurried shots.

Though 8th Division doubled up their production in the second canto, it still had to bleed for points and was even down by a bigger margin after the first half as Ali'i Blue Haus enjoyed a 47-21 halftime edge. Ali'i Blue Haus extended the lead, as it continued to rotate its players well and drew points from them, while 8th Division could not find the right combination on the floor.

Ali'i Blue Haus went on to taste its biggest advantage at 49-21, as Ed Diaz started the third quarter with a layup. Diaz and company then kept the 20-plus advantage all throughout the third period, as 8th Division was still turning the ball over on numerous occassions. Errors were not recorded during the game, but 8th Division made more miscues than baskets in that canto. With its erratic plays, 8th Division did not even reach the 30-point mark up until the last one minute of the penultimate frame off Jun Tabora's 3-point play, 32-55.

The third quarter ended with Ali'i Blue Haus up by 23, 59-36, and the best that 8th Division could do was trim the deficit down to 14 past the halfway mark of the fourth canto, 51-65.

Diaz's back-to-back basket from almost the exact location (left wing) brought down 8th Division's hopes for another big comeback in the last 4:04 of the finals. Diaz's first basket came from a bounce pass from Darwin Barbo with the 24-second shot clock ticking and after Ali'i Blue Haus sued for time to stop 8th Division's rally. The second was courtesy of an alley-oop pass from Lerio Pagarao on a fastbreak play.

With the win secured along with the championship trophy, Ali'i Blue Haus put the finishing touches on its long-game dominance of 8th Division by going 5-for-6 from the foul line and drawing a leisurely taken jumper from Junar Guiab.

Diaz paced Ali'i Blue Haus' title win after scoring 18 points, while Ivan Devero and Elmer Esdrelon also finished in double figures with 14 and 11, respectively. Four Ali'i Blue Haus players combined for 34 markers and the team registered 14 assists against only two from 8th Division, which was led by the 13 points of Tabora.

Ali'i Blue Hau 78 — E. Diaz 18, Devero 14, Esdrelon 11, Barbo 9, Moises 9, Guiab 8, Pagarao 8, Demapan 1.

8th Division 62 — J. Tabora 13, Alipio 12, Lauron 10, Fitial 8, Itibus 5, Tenorio 3, Catalla 2, Sanchez 2, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-7, 47-21, 59-36, 78-62.

GOOD

From Page 28

Jesus—beat her entry time in the 100m backstroke (1.24.14) after recording 1:20.90 on Heat 2.

Palau's Osisang Chilton prevailed on Heat 2 after clocking in at 1:13.67, while eight swimmers advanced to the medal race after making the grade in the semifinals. Australia's Emily Seebohm (56.44 seconds) topped Group 1 semis, while the host's Kylie Masse (56.19) reigned in Group 2 to lead the finals cast in the event.

In other results, De Jesus also raced in the 200m freestyle and 50m breaststroke and timed in at 2:31.59 and 41.15 seconds, respectively. She finished ahead of the Marshall Islands' Ruthie Long (2:34.03) in the 200m freestyle event and defeated Malawi's Tayamika Chang-anamuno (44.13 seconds). World record holder Federica Pellegrini of Italy took the gold medal in the 200m freestyle event after tallying 1:51.73, while the 50m breaststroke is still in the semifinal round.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	7	.667	—
Boston	12	9	.571	2
New York	12	9	.571	2
Brooklyn	5	15	.250	8½
Philadelphia	4	18	.182	10½

Southeast Division

Charlotte	12	9	.571	—
Atlanta	10	12	.455	2½
Orlando	10	12	.455	2½
Washington	7	13	.350	4½
Miami	7	14	.333	5

Central Division

Cleveland	14	5	.737	—
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	4
Chicago	11	10	.524	4
Detroit	12	11	.522	4
Indiana	10	11	.476	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	4	.818	—
Houston	14	7	.667	3½
Memphis	15	8	.652	3½
New Orleans	7	15	.318	11
Dallas	4	16	.200	13

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	14	8	.636	—
Utah	14	9	.609	½
Portland	12	10	.545	2
Denver	8	13	.381	5½
Minnesota	6	15	.286	7½

Pacific Division

Golden State	18	3	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	16	6	.727	2½
L.A. Lakers	10	13	.435	9
Sacramento	7	13	.350	10½
Phoenix	6	15	.286	12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Isabel Heras makes a return during her and Jeff Race's mixed open doubles game against Carol Lee and Steven Goodwin in the 8th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

Steven Goodwin hits the ball from the sideline. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Men's open doubles champions Bobby Cruz, left, and Moris Villanueva pose for a photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Don Castillo receives a serve from Dong Min Lee, while teammate Ken Imaya looks on.

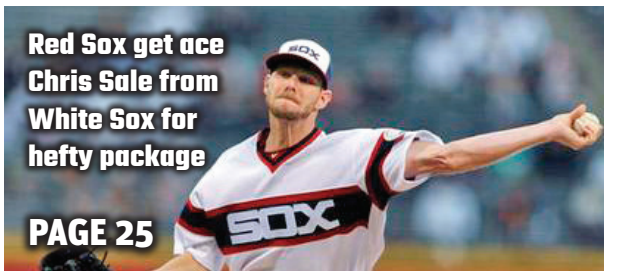
Isabel Heras, left, and Jeff Race talk about their strategy against Carol Lee and Steven Goodwin. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Imaya goes for a strong return. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee gets ready for a backhand return.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dong Min Lee, left, and Sam Lai pose for a photo during a break in their men's over 40 doubles game against Don Castillo and Ken Imaya.

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Blue Haus takes mixed masters title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ali'i Blue Haus/Bayani's Ed Diaz, second left, goes up for a shot against 8th Division/MAFEA's Dexter Tenorio, left, and Kelvin Fitial, right, while his teammate Bart Demapan stays close in the play during the third quarter of their title game in the UFO caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ali'i Blue Haus/Bayani played an organized game to ease past an erratic 8th Division/MAFEA, 78-62, in their winner-take-all finals showdown in the 2016 UFO/IT&E Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After pulling off an upset in the mixed masters semifinals, 8th Division showed no semblance of the team that stunned the second-seeded Best Sunshine International-Blue Eagle, while Ali'i Blue Haus displayed the kind of game that brought the squad several championships.

Ali'i Blue Haus was on point on defense right from the get-go to set the pace of the match. It pressured 8th Division early, preventing its foes from orchestrating its offense. 8th Division was held to two field goals in the entire 10 minutes of the first quarter, allowing Ali'i Blue Haus to build a double-digit lead, 20-7.

The eventual champion complemented its strong defense with a balance offense, as six different players had already scored for the team in the first period. In the second canto, Ali'i Blue Haus

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Good start for Villacrusis, Welch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Christian Villacrusis and Salofi Welch made a good impression in their debuts in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships after breaking their entry times in two events yesterday in Windsor, Canada.

Villacrusis swam on qualifying Heat 1 of the 200m individual medley competition at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario and clocked in at 2:31.79, surpassing his seed time of 2.34.70. Welch was on the same heat and submitted 2:32.17, which was about six seconds better than his entry time of 2.38.59. Villacrusis and Welch finished seventh and eighth on Heat 1, while Great Britain's Mark Szranek topped the group after checking in at 1:53.77. China's Shun Wang won the gold medal in the event after registering 1:51.74 and was joined in the podium by Germany's Philip Heintz (1:52.07) and Japan's Daiya Seto (1:52.89).

For their second event—the 100m breaststroke—the two CNMI swimmers were also on the same Heat (1) and ranked better in their group. Villacrusis posted 1:16.11, chopping off more than a second from his entry time (1.17.76) and placing sixth out of the 10 swimmers on Heat 1. Welch's 1:66.55 landed him at the No. 1 spot and broke his seed time of 1.23.29. The two CNMI swimmers defeated Malawi's Michael Swift (1:22.18) and Gambia's Jegan Jobe (1:26:02). Villacrusis also prevailed against Niger's Alassane Seydoylancina (1:16.30), while Slovenia's Peter Stevens (58:36 seconds) ruled Heat 1.

The 100m breaststroke was scheduled to have its finals last night with the Top 4 swimmers in the two semifinal races qualifying to the medal round. Brazil's Silva Franca (56.99 seconds), Russia's Vladimir Morozov (57,00), American Nic Fink (57.10), and Belarus' Ilya Shymanovich (57.65) made the finals cut in Group 1, while the qualifiers in Group 2 were Germany's Marco Koch (56.86 seconds), American Cody Miller (57.14), Italy's Favio Scozzoli (57.22), and Russia's Oleg Ostin (57.52).

Meanwhile, the lone female swimmer on the CNMI National Team—Angel De

See GOOD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Christian Villacrusis does the backstroke part of the 200m individual medley race during a local race early this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

'The Raging Bull' ready to strike

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Stanley "The Raging Bull" Iakopo is all set for his lightweight title fight against Guam and Spike 22's The Real Deal" Wusstig tomorrow in Trench Warz 20: Full Trottle at the Marianas Business Plaza.

"I feel ready and determined," said Iakopo, who has all the reasons to look forward to the title duel after their original bout in August this year in Rites of Passage 20: Conquer was postponed due to his rib injury.

"It was unfortunate that I got injured in the football game against Guam... but I moved on to the next agenda which is this fight. I don't dwell on the past because I have a life with my wife and kids, a duty to the people of CNMI with my work, and I want to be a role model to those who battle

See STRIKE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Trench Tech's Stanley "The Raging Bull" Iakopo, left, will be facing Guam and Spike 22's The Real Deal" Wusstig tomorrow in the Trench Warz 20: Full Trottle at the Marianas Business Plaza.